

Flotilla reaches edge of Cuba

KEY WEST, Florida, May 21, (AP): A flotilla of private boats has sailed across the wave-tossed Florida Straits to rally for democracy just outside the territorial limits of communist Cuba.

Cuban patrol boats were waiting for them yesterday, but there were no confrontations, said Lieut Cmdr Jeff Karonis, a coast guard spokesman.

"It was a very emotional moment for all the Cubans who participated in this," said Julio Rebull, a Cuban exile living in Miami. "We felt we were right in front of the wall, like the Berlin Wall, that separates our people."

Although 34 boats sailed from Key West at sunrise, only 24 made it all the way to the rendezvous point about 20 miles (32 kilometres) north of the Cuban coast by early afternoon, Karonis said.

The flotilla sailed parallel with the Cuban coast for about six miles (10 kilometres), then headed back across the strait for Key West, said petty officer Luis Diaz.

Exiles tossed wreaths of flowers and bottles with messages into the water, Rebull said.

For seven minutes, a Roman Catholic priest read prayers to a Cuban operator monitoring the radio communications channel from the lighthouse at Havana harbour, he added.

"By just looking and knowing on the horizon that we were less than an hour away from our homeland ... everyone was crying," said Rebull, 53. "For me personally, it was the most emotional moment in my 30 years of exile."

Rebull said the Cuban operator acknowledged receiving the message, but made no further response.

The ocean current carried the messages and flowers north, away from Cuba.

Coast guard cutters on patrol in the straits monitored the flotilla by radar, but did not provide an escort, coast guard officials said.

They had warned the exiles to protest verbally but go along peacefully if they were intercepted by Cuban defence forces, and also warned them that Cuba claims a territorial sea extending 12 miles (20 kilometres) or more from the coastline.

The expedition was billed as a peaceful demonstration against Cuba's communist government as well as a celebration of Cuba's independence from Spain.

"It will bring a message of solidarity and support for efforts seeking democracy in Cuba," spokesman Jose Basulto said before the flotilla sailed.

Backers had said they had expected more than 100 boats to take part. But Diaz said that no more than 51 signed up, and only 34 actually left Key West.

For reasons ranging from breakdowns to not wanting to buck 5-foot (1.5-metre) waves in the centre of the 90-mile-wide (145-kilometre-wide) straits, 10 of those 34 stayed on this side, Diaz said.

It's not the first time Cuban exiles have ventured into the Florida Straits to protest Castro's government. In September 1988, two boatloads of exiles left Key West to protest human rights abuses on the island. Cuban gunboats stopped them 17 miles offshore.

As the flotilla headed south yesterday morning, two Cubans escaping the island on a raft of innertubes were spotted by a pleasure boat in the straits about 20 miles (32 kilometres) east of Key West.

Karonis said the sunburned pair were picked up by a coast guard boat and brought in to Key West, where they were turned over to US immigration authorities yesterday afternoon.

■ **Nicaragua** Contra guerrilla commanders confirmed they have suspended disarmament and said they won't order their troops to put down their weapons unless their personal security can be guaranteed.

"Demobilised fighters are not getting the treatment they deserve," said Oscar Solvalbarro, the second-ranking Contra commander, in a Saturday evening interview with the Associated Press.

Sovalbarro, known as "Commander Ruben," said demobilised Contras were being harassed by Sandinistas and weren't getting enough food, medical care and assistance in establishing themselves in civilian life.

■ **Dominican Republics** Officials announced a temporary halt of counting yesterday in a close presidential race between incumbent Joaquin Balaguer and ex-president Juan Bosch, who has accused his rival of fraud.

Immigration debate gains legitimacy in Australia

Politicians, academics call for a cut or at least a reassessment of current policy

SYDNEY, May 21, (Reuters): Australia, a nation built on successive waves of migrants, have never found it easy to come to grips with immigration.

"In over 200 years there has always been the argument from those already here that no one else should come," said Carl Harbaum, chairman of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia.

The immigration debate bubbled to the surface again this month, but this time the discussion was based more on economics than emotion.

Some of Australia's most senior

politicians and academics called for a cut, or at the very least a reassessment, of the present immigration policy which increases the population by around one per cent every year. Australia's current population is around 16 million.

In the past, attempts to start a debate on immigration have degenerated into slanging matches. This time the charges of racism laid against those who dared call for a cut in immigration were conspicuous by their absence.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke told a news conference last

Wednesday that he welcomed an unprejudiced debate on the issue.

"I welcome any informed and unprejudiced debate in this country about immigration," Hawke said.

"I have a commitment to immigration and what it has meant to this country, but that doesn't mean I think there is a sacredness about this issue which precludes debate."

Former finance minister Peter Walsh rekindled the debate by saying Australia's record level of immigration was fueling demand in an overheated economy and had to be cut.

Australia allows 150,000 migrants entry each year. Immigration officials say it is taking more people per head of population than any other country with the exception of Israel.

"It is beyond any reasonable doubt that the present immigration programme is seriously aggravating our short and medium-term economic problems," Walsh said.

"The additional demand for housing and other social infrastructure investment arising from immigration-induced higher population growth has a greater adverse impact on the current

account."

Until 1959 Australia conducted a white Australia immigration policy. Today over 40 per cent of migrants come from Asia compared with 19.3 per cent from Britain and Ireland and 5.2 per cent from Europe.

For the past two decades determining the rate and composition of immigration has become a political nightmare for Australian governments faced with a vocal and highly politicised ethnic community.

"In the late '70s and '80s migration became a sacred cow and now to

challenge it means you are labelled a racist," said Robert Birrell.

"They (ethnic leaders) can't differentiate between an opinion on immigration and an opinion on migrants. They take it very personally."

This time, however, Walsh's comments attracted support from scientists, academics and media commentators.

Former Immigration Minister Stewart West called for a reassessment of the annual intake on economic grounds, saying the present intake should be cut by 40,000.

Wolf denies sinister past

EAST BERLIN, May 21, (AP): East Germany's former spy chief denied he has "corpses in my cellar" and said his country's new democratic society must not banish former communist agents.

In an interview with a West German newspaper, former intelligence chief Markus Wolf said he would turn down a government offer to help dissolve the secret police of the ousted communist regime.

"Personally, I can live without public office," he was quoted as saying in an interview made available yesterday by the West German newspaper *Bild*, which planned to publish it today.

An outcry arose in both Germany last week after East German Interior Minister Peter Michael Dietel said he wanted Wolf to serve as an adviser to the government's efforts to dissolve the former secret police.

Politicians in both Germany denounced the move. Yesterday Social Democratic lawmakers said they would ask Parliament this week to take control of the Interior Ministry.

Wolf, 67, once considered one of the most skilled and feared intelligence chiefs in the East bloc, is wanted for arrest in West Germany.

He was in Moscow for several weeks, but, in answer to a question, denied he was helping incorporate the vestiges of East Germany's intelligence network into the KGB, the Soviet spy agency.

"In Moscow I wrote a book. Nothing else," Wolf said. He worked for East German intelligence for nearly three decades.

Wolf said he was not asked to serve as a government adviser, but to assist a proposed committee of intellectuals and church leaders that would study the problems of dissolving the secret police.

"But now, after the attack against me, I would refuse to assist," he said, because he does not want to open a " fissure among the people in our young democracy."

He also said that the people who formerly worked for him should not be targets of revenge.

"They may not be banished from the community," he said.

He also dismissed the comment of a West German politician that he had "blood on his hands."

"I find that laughable. There is no proof of that," he said in the interview. "I have no corpses in my cellar, no blood stains on my hands."

East Germany has been involved in an intense public debate over whether to prosecute or forgive people who helped the communist regime maintain its grip on power through intimidation, harassment, surveillance and imprisonment of dissidents.

EEC edges toward political union

PARKNAISILLA, Ireland, May 21, (AP): EEC foreign ministers today laid the groundwork for closer political integration by 1993, but made it clear that none of the 12 federal United States of Europe.

Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins described the weekend talks at Parknasilla, a lavish country resort in southwest Ireland, as "a real step forward in defining the shape of a new Europe."



Marching for victory



Supporters of Colombian Liberal presidential candidate Cesar Gavira march (left) near a military patrol. At right, Gavira makes the victory sign on Sunday at the close of his campaign. (Reuters wirephotos)

7 hurt in Bogota car bomb blast

Bogota candidate stays at home

Navarro fears for life

BOGOTA, May 21, (Reuters): Antonio Navarro Wolf, who took the place of a left-wing presidential candidate murdered in Colombia, says he has not left his home since his predecessor was buried three weeks ago.

"I haven't been out because if I go out they'll kill me," a former leader of the M-19 guerrilla group, told Reuters on Saturday. "It's like being a prisoner, but I have already been a prisoner on other occasions," he said.

Navarro, 42, was nominated to succeed Carlos Pizarro as a candidate in May 27 elections after Pizarro, who led M-19 and turned the feared group into a political party, was shot dead aboard an airplane last month.

Pizarro was the third presidential aspirant to be assassinated in nine months in the bloodiest campaign in living memory. The government has blamed powerful cocaine barons, who are waging a nine-month-old war on the state, for all three murders.

Navarro, who has been in prison for anti-government activities, said he had not left his house since Pizarro's April 28 funeral.

Cesar Gavira, the ruling Liberal Party candidate and strong favourite to win, was flanked by a dozen bodyguards with guns bulging beneath their jackets when he appeared at an indoor stadium in Bogota.

Security was also tight at closing rallies of Gavira's main

Unlike other presidential candidates who were attending closing election campaign rallies yesterday, the last day of campaigning, Navarro said he was staying at home.

"I am not attending the closing rally for a very simple reason. If I go out I will not make it until the 27th," Navarro said in an interview at his heavily fortified home in a prosperous Bogota neighbourhood.

Navarro bears the scars of an attempt on his life five years ago while a guerrilla leader. He lost a leg and suffers impaired speech from shrapnel which lodged in his face in a grenade attack.

Navarro, who spent 15 years as a leader of M-19, said he had an idea of who was responsible for Pizarro's murder but could not make a public statement yet.

Navarro said drug traffickers may have been involved in the killing "as part of a plan directed from higher up."

Pizarro's brother, Eduardo, has said that members of the military could have had a hand in the assassination.

traffickers, has received many death threats.

■ Colombian newspaper publisher Luis Gabriel Cano accepted a press freedom award today and said he believed his country was nearing a decisive stage in its battle against cocaine traffickers.

Arkansas

Flash floods

HOT SPRINGS, Arkansas, May 21, (AP): New floods have brought misery to the southwestern United States, but in a different area than one hit by hundreds of millions of dollars in losses and 13 deaths over the past three weeks.

Flash floods turned streets into rivers in Hot Springs and pushed lakes out of their banks, sweeping away cars and strands of residents of Lakefront homes on rooftops in yet another onslaught of high water.

The flooding followed thunderstorms that began Saturday afternoon and brought up to a foot (30 centimetres) of rain and high winds to central Arkansas by early last morning. The water receded by late morning, revealing extensive damage along the resort city's central business district, authorities said.

It exploded on the first floor

near a cloakroom in the Sheraton

Blast at New York hotel

Centre Hotel, a police spokeswoman said. The dinner Quayle was to attend was held on the second floor.

The spokeswoman said the incident did not appear to be connected to Quayle's visit. She added that no threatening calls or letters had been received and no one had claimed responsibility for planting the device.

It exploded on the first floor

near a cloakroom in the Sheraton

million in aid.

"Japan has also promised us a substantial amount and so has the European Economic Community but I don't have the figures," said Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants.

"On the basis of a gambler's lunch, I'd say we have 65 per cent of votes in the provinces against 25 per cent for centre-right candidate Mario Vargas Llosa," Fujimori told Reuters in an interview on a stand hitched to his tractor.

Fujimori, a former university rector, faces Vargas Llosa — Peru's most famous writer — in a June 10 runoff.

The two candidates' styles differ widely — Vargas Llosa uses US public relations experts while Fujimori campaigns from the back of his tractor, which has become his trademark.

Fujimori said opinion polls show him leading Vargas Llosa by 42 percent to 35 percent in the capital, where about 40 per cent of Peru's 10 million voters live. He said his support in the Andean highlands "has grown tremendously."



Record sale

This unique Swedish three shilling yellow postage stamp printed in 1855 has been auctioned for a record 1.9 million Swiss francs (nearly \$1.4 million) in Zurich, Switzerland, on Saturday. The stamp was sold by the David Feldman auction house to a Swedish industry magnate who bid by phone. (Reuters wirephoto)

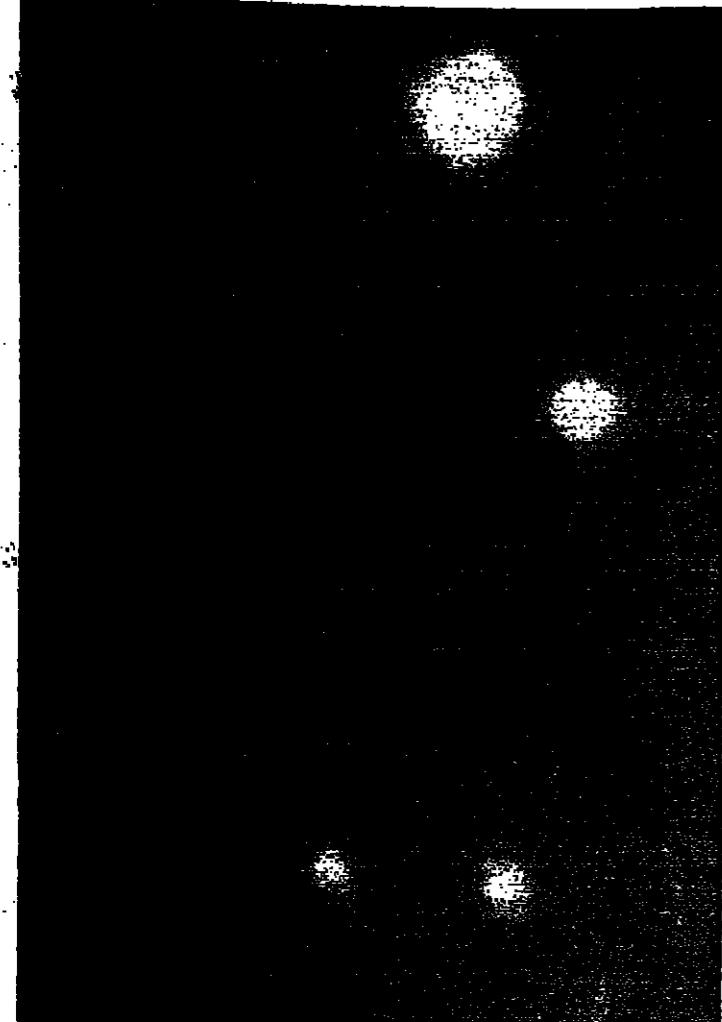
Italian layman beatified: Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian who helped the urban poor earlier this century, was beatified Sunday by Pope John Paul II, who praised him as a model for lay Catholics.

Beatification is the last major step before sainthood in the Roman Catholic church.

About 50,000 people attended the ceremony in St. Peter's Square. (AP)

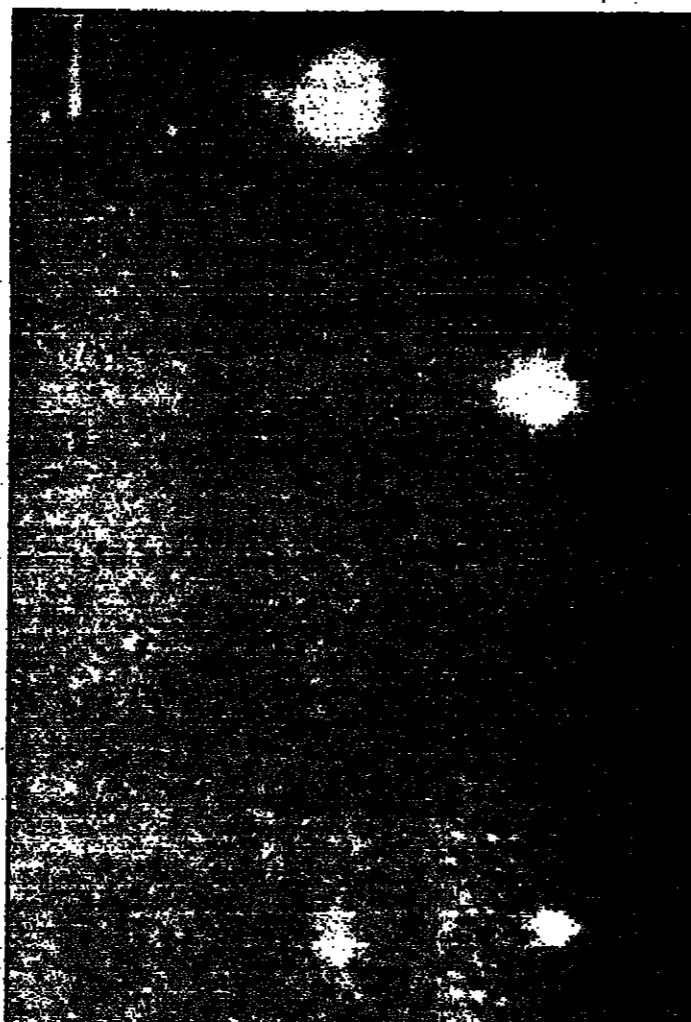
Jewish 'copy-cat' attack: British police were investigating an alleged "copy-cat" on a Jewish cemetery in London, following similar incidents in France, it was reported Monday.

A Scot's Yard spokesman said they were treating the incidents as a "one-off situation," with nothing to suggest the start of an "anti-Jewish backlash."



First image

The first image, from the space telescope Hubble on Sunday, of a star cluster 1,280 light years away is shown (right) in comparison with an image taken by a



ground-based telescope (left). The Hubble picture has revealed a double star where the other merely showed a single bright star. (Reuter wirephotos)

'Courtesy? You got the wrong town'

New York's resident still rude

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): Despite a new campaign that implores this city's notoriously rude residents to be more civil, they continue to hog pay phones, fight over cabs, curse drivers and bump, elbow, knee and shove each other.

"Courtesy? You got the wrong town," said Thomas Abato as he tossed some change in the general direction of a newspaper vendor.

"Selling people on civility" is the ultimate marketing challenge, says Ron Burkhardt, whose advertising firm is trying to do just that.

The courtesy campaign is directed by a group called New York Pride.

"The city is in trouble, in crisis; it's aching now," said co-chairman Herb Rickman.

"Government alone can't save this city."

"New York has become a rough, tough place to live in," he added, "largely because of

little incidents, little irritations" in the subway or on the street. Party as a result, he said, tourism is down and residents and corporations are moving out.

The campaign includes:

— Television spots showing typical New York scenes — women fighting over a taxi cab, men sticking fingers in each other's chests, a bicyclist brushing past a pedestrian — as the soundtrack plays the song "Try a Little Tenderness." At the end, two men lift a fallen woman from the street.

— Radio spots in which a grumpy bank teller tells a customer to get in line. Asked "which line?" he barks, "see that short one over there! That's not it."

— Print ads featuring a large close-up of a cab driver's snarling face and the message, "it's about time we changed the face on New York."

— Poster and window stickers with the

promise "courtesy shown here."

A telephone line for reports of politeness or courtesy. "You can call up and find out who's being courteous and who isn't," said Mark Simone of Wnew radio, who is focusing on the topic on his programme.

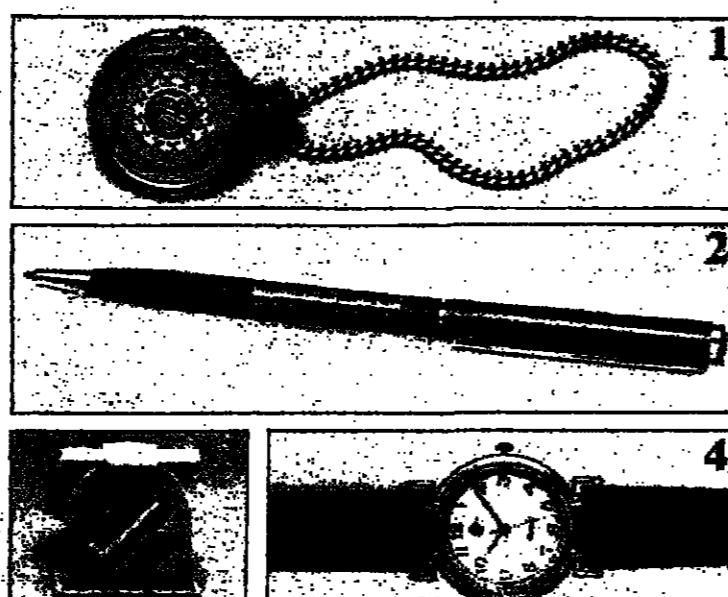
On Friday, however, New Yorkers were up to their old habits.

They snarled at dozens of subway stations along the J and M lines after a shooting on a train halted service during rush hour.

They groused at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 60th Street, where pedestrian traffic was halted briefly when a blind man hooked his cane through a woman's shopping bag, prompting some nasty language by the latter.

Spokesmen for public service agencies were asked if the civility campaign in having any effect.

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Unknown double star

Hubble telescope surprises scientists

GREENBELT, Maryland, May 21, (AP): The first photo series from the Hubble space telescope was supposed to be just an engineering test, but it surprised scientists by revealing an unsuspected double star.

Hubble's inaugural photo sequence, taken from its orbit 381 miles (613 kms) above the earth, showed bright, crisp stars against a black background, with much clearer images than seen in a picture taken by a ground-based telescope of the same part of the heavens.

"Fantastic," said James Westphal, the principal scientist for the

camera used in the first photo exercise. "We are just as pleased as Punch at this point. Our image is significantly better than we were concerned that it might be."

Westphal said Sunday the Hubble pictures clearly show that an image which appeared in ground-based photos to be only a single star was, in fact, a rare binary star. The space telescope pictures showed two overlapping points of light, instead of a single blob as seen in a picture taken by a Chilean observatory.



Dr Edward Weiler, programme scientist for NASA headquarters, holds a CCD chip which transforms light into information from the Hubble telescope so that it can be sent back to the computer at the Goddard Space Centre and turned into pictures. (Reuter wirephoto)

Racial crimes rise in US

NEW YORK, May 21, (Reuters):

Attorney-General Richard Thornburgh and leading civil rights

officials said yesterday racial

crimes were rising in the United

States and pointed to poor

economic conditions as a main reason

for increasing tension.

In a sign of renewed soul-searching among Americans about race relations, set off by a week of

racial incidents in New York, the

country's main television current

affairs programmes yesterday

focused on the issue.

The New York incidents were

processed through computers to

filter out many of the impurities,

will be analysed over the next

several days, NASA said.

Officials plan to continue

refining Hubble's focussing

ability, which they said will eventually

be at least seven times

clearer than it was for its maiden

transmission, the first of many

thousands that are planned.

Within three to four months,

NASA scientists expect the telescope

to begin providing information

about regions of deep space

beyond the range of Earth-based

telescopes.

The first pictures were all the

more encouraging because the

telescope has been plagued with

a series of communications and

control problems since it was

released from the space shuttle

Discovery April 25.

Cannes

2 tipped for Palm

CANNES, May 21, (Reuters):

Two late entries at the Cannes

film festival, a Chinese love story

and a nostalgic Italian tale about

an elderly man, have emerged as

strong candidates for the Golden

Palm award.

Film critics reckon China's "Ju

Dou" (Secret Love, Hidden

Faces) and Giuseppe Tornatore's "Stand Tutti Bene" (Everybody's Fine) stand a good

chance when the 10-member jury

announces its decisions late ton-

ight.

Jury President Bernardo Bertolucci, whose own "The Last Emperor" was filmed in China in the days before the Tiananmen

Square crackdown, may well

have a soft spot for "Ju Dou," the

only Chinese offering among the

18 final candidates.

"Ju Dou," screened on Sunday,

is the story of an adulterous love

between an unhappily married

wife and her adopted nephew, set

in a dye factory in the Chinese

country-side.

Director Zhang Yimou shows

a village society where the strict

feudal customs suffocate sponta-

neous emotion. Breaking the

social code, the lovers are

inevitably condemned to de-

struction.

Tornatore's "Stand Tutti Bene"

ranks alongside his Oscar-

winning "Cinema Paradiso" in

quality and has the same mood of

wistful nostalgia.

Veteran actor Marcello Ma-

stroiani stars as a Sicilian pater-

familias who foolishly decides to

spring surprise visits on the mem-

bers of his family.

Reds planned more killings

Commander meets Cory

ANGELES, Philippines, May 21, (AP): Communist rebels had

planned to assassinate senior US

military officers on the eve of talks on

the future of the US military bases in

the Philippines, a military official

said today.

Lt Col Julius Yarcia, chief of

the Angeles metropolitan district

command, said the plan was

scrapped after the military's

quick response to the killing of

two US airmen near the base on

May 13, a day before the talks

began in Manila.

Yarcia said the killing of air-

men John H. Raven and James

C. Green outside a hotel near the

base, 80 kms (50 miles) north of

Manila, was part of the plan of

the communist New People's

Army to disrupt the talks.

He said rebel liquidation

teams were in place in five other

areas around the base, but were

"dispersed" when the military

immediately began searching

for the killers of the two servicemen.

A regional commander said

troops captured three suspected

NPA members, including one

believed to have been involved in

the two killings.

"It was supposedly the biggest

NPA operation this year in

Angels killing, bigger than the

1987 killings (also in Angeles),"

Yarcia said.

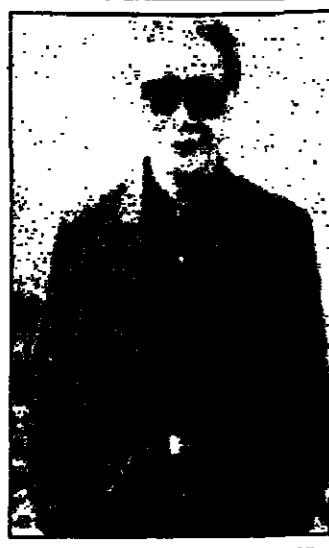
NPA "political assassination

teams" had targeted "several

ranking US military officers,"

Yarcia said. He declined to iden-

130 dead or missing in Jakarta</h2



Xu Jia Tun, ex-director of the Xing Hua news agency in Hong Kong, is shown in this undated snapshot taken in San Diego, California. It was announced on Sunday that Xu, who had been missing from China since early May, has taken temporary refuge in southern California with Master Hsing Yun, who runs the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights, California. (Reuter wirephoto)

Chinese official feared probe

HONG KONG, May 21, (UPI): China's former top official in Hong Kong, currently in the United States, fled there as a refuge after learning of a Chinese government investigation of his political conduct and financial dealings, Chinese and Western sources said today.

The sources confirmed the US government's public statements that Xu Jiatun, the former director of the official Chinese news agency's Hong Kong branch, had not defected, but said his abrupt and mysterious departure earlier this month was prompted by fears of what faced him in Beijing.

"Some called Xu from the mainland and tipped him he was about to be ordered back to Beijing," one source said. "He thought he was in trouble."

Xu, 74, served for nearly seven years as head of the Xinhua news agency's Hong Kong office, which acts as Beijing's unofficial consulate to the British colony and represents the Chinese foreign ministry. As such, he was China's top representative to Hong Kong until his retirement in February.

Ironically, he was also Beijing's chief voice of reassurance to the colony's nearly 6 million people over worries about their future after Britain returns sovereignty to China in 1997.

"It took couple of days for this to sink in," said senior official of the British Hong Kong government. "But it has galvanized people. It's all people are talking about."

The Chinese government has said only that Xu went to the United States for "travel and rest." But a Chinese source said an internal government document had characterised Xu's departure as "somewhere between an unauthorised trip and a defection."

Vigils in memory of Aids dead

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21, (UPI): Thousands of people all over the world held candlelight vigils to keep alive the memory of those who have died of Aids.

Memorial services and rallies from Soweto to Seattle marked the beginning of the seventh annual international Aids candlelight memorial in memory of more than 200,000 people believed to have died from Aids world-wide.

In Washington, First Lady Barbara Bush placed a candle in every window of the White House and lit them at dusk, when a memorial service was held on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, a spokeswoman said.

About 15 members of the militant Aids advocacy group Act-Up held a counterdemonstration to protest alleged "inactivity" of the Bush administration on research and drug therapy. They lit candles but turned their backs on the 200 other vigil-holders, shouting, "money for Aids."

Andy Ives of Mobilisation Against Aids said in San Francisco that the group has been petitioning the president to participate in the annual vigil. Bush declined last year and Sunday night was in Portland, Oregon.

Events were held in 200 cities around the globe, ranging from the black township of Soweto in South Africa to the Czechoslovakian capital of Prague, said Paul Boneberg of the San Francisco-based organising group Mobilization Against Aids.

Romania elections flawed: observers

Iliescu wins 89pc majority

BUCHAREST, May 21, (Agencies): International observers said today that Romania's elections, which returned the ruling National Salvation Front to power by huge majorities, were flawed but they had not observed systematic electoral fraud.

A 60-strong US and British-led delegation said the Front, a catch-all centre-left grouping which assumed power amid chaos

after last December's bloody revolution, had not established its democratic credentials through the elections.

"The process was flawed but the very fact that an election has taken place is itself a remarkable achievement which none of us would have believed possible a year ago," they said in a statement.

First free polls in 53 years

Romanians delighted

BUCHAREST, May 21, (AP): For 86-year-old Simon Feller, yesterday's election was a chance to fulfill a secret wish and vote in a free election for the first time in 53 years.

For 21-year-old Julius Cristea, it was a chance to cast a ballot for Romania to become a democratic country and blot out 44 years of communist rule.

For young and old, the most vivid election memories were the rubber-stamp affairs held every four years by communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Yesterday's vote was a chance to make a choice.

"I never thought I could live this long," said Stefan Ionescu, a 75-year-old retired plumber.

He and others old enough to remember voting in Romania's last free multi-party election in 1937 thought yesterday's poll was freer.

"The Romanians always used to take elections very lightly," said an 85-year-old who gave his name only as Demetru.

"Now after nearly half a century of communism, people take them seriously. The only merit of communism is that it made people long for freedom," he said.

He remembered one way to cheat in the 1930s was fraudulently increasing the voting roll by adding the names of the dead and people ineligible to vote.

"Compared to 1937, the elections of today are much better because no people are beating each other," said Ionescu after voting at a Bucharest school.

Stefan Vanghele, 85, recalled that when voters left the booth in 1937, a chalk line was drawn on their backs "and then they punched you because you

voted for the opposition."

Ion Moraru, 73, a retired auto mechanic, said he voted in past years because "if you didn't, they put you out of your job."

In the western city of Timisoara, cradle of December's revolution that toppled Ceausescu, Vasile Aurel, a 78-year-old retired civil engineer, was elected as he waited on line outside a polling station.

"Until December, I was convinced that neither I nor my children would ever take part in free elections," said Aurel, who in 1937 voted for the National Peasants Party. Yesterday, he voted for the National Liberal Party.

The two traditional parties are fielding candidates for president and the two-chamber Parliament, but in opinion polls trailed the National Salvation Front which has run the country since the revolution.

"I know the National Salvation Front will probably win but what is important now is to have an opposition in Parliament strong enough to protect the gains of democracy," he said.

Feller, a retired Ministry of Health official, said that when the communists came to power in 1946, "I just folded my ballot in four and left."

"I always hoped to vote in a fair election," he said.

"I hope the election will bring liberty, democracy and the reduction of tension," he said.

Younger men voting for the first time ever betrayed equal elation and desire for democracy.

"Freedom makes my heart free," said a 27-year-old engineering student who identified himself only as Sorni. "I am very happy to give my vote in liberty... under Ceausescu, it was compulsory to vote because that was the law. Now, it is our option."

The observers were delivering their verdict on opposition charges that yesterday's polls for a president and two-chamber Parliament were as fraudulent as those held under deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

According to early projections by a West German polling institute, Romanians opted overwhelmingly in their first free elections for more than 50 years for the interim head of state, Front leader Ion Iliescu, as president.

Iliescu, a 60-year-old one-time senior Communist Party official sidelined by Ceausescu for dissent, won a thumping 89 per cent majority in a contest with two other candidates, projections by the respected Infas institute showed.

The Front also took control of both houses of Parliament with a two-thirds majority.

The first task of the new 387-seat assembly and 119-member senate will be drafting a constitution to replace one under which Ceausescu ruled at the head of the Communist Party for nearly 25 years until he was toppled on December 22 in Eastern Europe's bloodiest revolution.

A high proportion of the 16 million voters — one official said 98 per cent — cast their ballots in the region's third free poll this year in the aftermath of the ouster of communist systems.

The delegation said: "Our teams did note instances of irregularities, but we did not observe systematic electoral fraud. Isolated incidents of ballot box stuffing have been reported, as have incidents in which adequate physical control of the ballots was not maintained."

"The democratic credentials of the National Salvation Front have not been fully established by this election," the delegation added.

US Senator Joe Lieberman, leader of the delegation, told a news conference it was difficult to say if the elections had been free and fair.

"I think the important tone to stress is that it is a first step and that we have to view what happened here yesterday in the context of what preceded it," Lieberman said.

Former US Senator Harrison Schmitt displayed a ballot paper already stamped in favour of the Front when the voter received it.

British parliamentarian Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, said the delegation would be much more critical if the next elections due in Romania — after a two-year transition period for the Parliament and president elected yesterday — were held under the same conditions.

An ethnic Hungarian political party, forecast to get six per cent of the vote in Romania's elections, said today it would work with other opposition groups to force the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) to settle the country's ethnic problems.

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"I know about how crazy the stock market is and how crazy land prices are. The middle class has not been taken care of very well," he said.

He ended his talk with a plea to the government to allow his American-born wife to return to Taiwan.

"Everyone needs a real home. I hope they will let my wife return to Taiwan."

Released with Shih was Hsu Hsin-Liang, a charismatic former county magistrate who fled Taiwan for the United States after the Kaohsiung riots. He was captured trying to sneak back to the island last September and sentenced to 10 years in jail in December.

Roman announces late May 20 that Iliescu has won the election with 83 per cent of the votes.

(Reuter wirephoto)



Bulgarians rally

About 25,000 Bulgarians waving blue opposition flags and balloons marched in central Sofia on Sunday to back a united front against the ruling Socialist Party in free elections next month.

Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) leader Zhelyu Zhelev told the crowd outside the Alexander Nevsky cathedral that foreign politicians had promised support for the union, the largest opposition alliance contesting the polls.

"Europe and the USA are with the UDF" and "a vote for the Communist Party is a crime and madness," read banners held by the crowd, which gathered to welcome

back opposition leaders from a tour of Paris, London, Washington, Warsaw and Prague.

Bulgaria's election on June 10 and 17, the first free polls in more than four decades, will complete a series in former communist-ruled Eastern Europe. More than 40 parties and groupings have registered to participate.

"Politicians abroad were impressed by the unity of our opposition," Zhelev said. "We are offering, not the communists a social utopia, but a democracy, something that has brought other people to prosperity and individual freedom." (AP wirephoto)

Penalise police, students demand

Kwangju remains tense

KWANGJU, May 21, (AP): Radical student leader Lee Ki-Ho told a news conference today the ruling Democratic Liberal Party was "a violent group" and he called on students to "inherit the spirit of our dead patriot."

Radicals said 21-year-old Shin Jang-Ho would be buried as a martyr and patriot Wednesday in the southern provincial city of Kwangju, which has been hit by three days of violent anti-government, anti-US protests. About 100 militant students armed with metal pipes guarded the hospital morgue where Shin's body was kept.

Meanwhile, Choi In-Kee, the mayor of Kwangju, warned that "violence will no longer be tolerated."

Shin was one of an estimated 15,000 students trying to avoid police roadblocks to reach Kwangju for rallies marking the 10th anniversary of the civil uprising in Kwangju. The military suppressed that pro-democracy uprising, killing at least 200 people in one of the bloodiest civil disturbances in modern Korean history.

The radical National Council of Student Representatives said 161 member colleges and universities planned to send mourners to funeral services Wednesday at Kwangju's Chonnam University and to a roadside site in front of the provincial government building.

Several thousand riot police deployed in and around the provincial building since violent protests erupted May 18 were mostly out of sight today, apparently to avoid antagonizing radicals and dissidents. The rest were released with warnings, it said.

South Korea is demanding that Japan apologize for its treatment of Korean citizens during 35 years of colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

President Roh Tae-Woo is scheduled to visit Tokyo from Thursday through Saturday, and Japan is expected to make an apology of some sort to help improve relations between the two countries.

Bands of elderly Koreans have been staging daily protests in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul demanding that Roh cancel his trip until an apology is forthcoming.

"Akinoto, apologize," they chant.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, said today the draft of the emperor's apology submitted to Seoul is still unacceptable to government officials.

It said the Japanese government uses the words "we" and "the two countries" while the South Korean government is demanding a clear definition of Japan as the offender and Korea as the victim.

Yonhap quoted a high-ranking South Korean official as saying the proposed draft falls short of Korean expectations. But the official said it shows "considerable progress" from remarks by Akinoto's late father, Emperor Hirohito, during then-President Chun Doo-Hwan's visit to Tokyo in 1984.

Japan may turn away China ship

TOKYO, May 21, (UPI): A top government spokesman said today Japan may reject a request to dock from the "goddess of democracy" the ship. French activists had hoped to use to broadcast pro-democracy radio programmes to China.

The organisers of the floating radio station announced Friday they were heading for Japan, where they were hoping to dock and get a transmitter needed to broadcast to China.

Taiwan frees dissident

Hails 'new era of democracy'

TAIPEI, May 21, (Reuter): Taiwan's most famous dissident, freed today by order of President Lee Teng-Hui after a decade in jail on sedition charges, welcomed what he called "a new era of democracy" on the island.

Shih Ming-Teh, sentenced to life in prison by martial law courts in 1980, told a news conference on his first day of freedom he needed to study the changes that have swept the island since he was locked up.

"This marks the beginning of a new era of democracy for Taiwan," Shih said. "I will continue to work with my colleagues in the democratic movement."

The 50-year-old Shih, dubbed "Taiwan's Mandela" by the local press, has served a total of 25 years on different charges of plotting against the Nationalist government and advocating Taiwan's political independence.

He was freed with nine other political prisoners as part of a clemency order signed by Lee to mark the president's inauguration to a new term yesterday.

Shih was the last to be released from prison yesterday.

Smiling broadly but looking frail, Shih spoke briefly at the news conference and said he now felt sympathy for the island's middle class.

"I know about how crazy the stock market is and how crazy land prices are. The middle class has not been taken care of very well," he said.

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Women protest

Women demonstrate outside a courthouse in Dhaka yesterday demanding 'harshest punishment' for young Bangladeshi businessman Munir Hossain who killed his wife to

save his sick love. The court later sentenced Hossain and his elderly fiancée both to death by hanging. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kashmir

were, "I am dying, but you fight for the freedom of Kashmir."

After his death, Indian security forces imposed a curfew on Srinagar. But tens of thousands of mourners defied the curfew, and streamed to the Soura Hospital. They removed Farooq's body, and began a procession that was planning to march to his office 10 kilometres (six miles) away.

Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said members of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force opened fire on the procession when it had covered eight kilometres (five miles).

The witnesses contended the firing was unprovoked, and the police gave no warning before they started shooting.

Farooq's coffin was hit by bullets and the body fell out, said the witnesses. Some of the mourners put the body, with fresh bullet wounds, back into the coffin and ran with it into the neighbourhood's narrow alleys, and reached his office safely, they said.

One of the coffin bearers was shot in the leg, and the leg had to be amputated, doctors at Soma Hospital said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

After the shootings, thousands of people converged on the cleric's office at Rajouri Kadal to see Farooq's body. Farooq's aides said the funeral date has not been decided yet.

Members of Farooq's family, his followers and thousands of protesters blamed the slaying on Jammu and Kashmir state Governor Jagmohan, who has been employing tens of thousands of troops and police and using harsh measures to try to quell the anti-India uprising.

"You go and tell Jagmohan to relax now. He has achieved what he wanted," 15-year-old Naila Farooq, the priest's daughter, cried to journalists outside her father's home.

Police said three men asking to see the cleric were admitted to his residential compound and escorted by Farooq's servant to his office. Police said the servant left and about one minute later, the three pulled out pistols, fired at the cleric and fled.

"They came to his office at about 11.15 am and shot him from point-blank range and ran away immediately," said a sobbing Umar Farooq, the priest's son.

Amanullah Khan, leader of the militant Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front fighting for independence, accused the Indian

(Continued from Page 1)

Fears loom Kashmir conflict

NEW DELHI, May 21, (Reuter): Weak leadership and fear of high casualties are holding India and Pakistan back from another war over disputed Kashmir, defence analysts and diplomats say.

The neighbours have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir. Both say they do not want a fourth. "War solves nothing," said a senior Indian official.

But there are widespread fears that India's problems in its part of Kashmir, where more than 300 people have been killed this year in a secessionist uprising, may drive it to attack the one-third of the Himalayan region controlled by Pakistan.

Washington is so worried it dispatched deputy National Security advisor Robert Gates to the two capitals.

India says Islamabad arms and trains militants in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, and in Punjab, where a Sikh secessionist war is nearly a decade old. Pakistan denies the charges.

Western diplomats say each side has moved at least four divisions, including armour, to the border areas. They said no one believes a war could be limited to Kashmir.

But the analyst said a decision to go to war — unlike previous occasions when eagerness was obvious in a considerably stronger India — would be a huge and painful one this time.

"The casualty will be colossal this time, because both sides have a much larger number of lethal weapons in their inventories than before," said Group Captain Mohinder Paul of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi.

"This means it will be a long drawn out war. It will also mean civilian casualties unlike in the past when the two countries kept away from civilian targets," Paul said.

"This time, Pakistan can hit Delhi and India can hit Islamabad. That's never been true before and that's a strong deterrent," a Western diplomat said.

The analysts said they estimated 1.5 million troops would be involved in a fourth war, backed by advanced US and Soviet-made tanks and aircraft. They said they believed it would stop short of nuclear conflict.

Islamabad and New Delhi have accused each other of developing nuclear weapons. Each denies it.

In a conventional war, the Indian Army would have to attack troops in well fortified positions from Himalayan Kashmir down to the plains of Punjab and Rajasthan.

The Indian Air Force has 742 combat planes spearheaded by the advanced French-made Mirage 2000s and the Soviet MiG-29. Pakistan has 341 aircraft, including 30 advanced US F-16s and 63 Mirage III/IVs. At sea, India has an even greater advantage.

But on the ground, things are more even. India has 1.36 million regular troops against Pakistan's 520,000 and nearly twice as many tanks.

However, they are more evenly matched at the border with a 10 to 7.5 ratio in Delhi's favour, and the militants in Kashmir and Punjab add a new factor, Indian officials said.

"This time, the Indian Army will be looking behind its back at the Sikh extremists, while facing better tanks and an air force with improved firepower," one said.

army of plotting Farooq's murderer with the help of the Hindu fundamentalist organisation Shiv Sena.

"No prominent political organisation in Kashmir could think of killing such a great man. He was a supporter of the present struggle in Kashmir," Khan said in a statement from Pakistan, where his group is based.

Khan is wanted by the Indian government on charges of ordering a number of killings and kidnappings during the recent flare-up of the Muslim rebellion in Kashmir.

"The main subject that came under discussions was Kashmir," said a Pakistani spokesman.

India tells Dhaka

Refuse visa to Khan

Foreign Ministry last Thursday.

Khan fled to the Netherlands after the United States revoked his visa last month at India's request. New Delhi later tried to extradite him.

A Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry official said Dhaka's policy was to stay out of all controversial issues among other south Asian countries. But he did not say if Khan's visa would be refused.

"It is premature for us to say what we are going to do because we haven't had any visa requests from him yet," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Ershad to seek new term in '91 election

DHAKA, May 21, (Reuter): Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad indicated for the first time yesterday that he would seek office again in elections due next year.

Opposition parties have repeatedly demanded that Ershad, who came to power in a bloodless coup in 1982, should step down before the polls.

Rockets used in Hyderabad

Experts determine make, source of weapons

ISLAMABAD, May 21, (Kuna): The week-long ethnic violence in the southeast city of Hyderabad, which left more than 35 persons dead and over 100 wounded, subsided today as troops patrolled its roads and streets for the second day running.

Police today were carrying out raids in the second principal city of troubled Sind province to apprehend suspects and seize arms and ammunition which lately has been used in an unprecedented manner.

A new and alarming aspect of the violence in Hyderabad during the week has been the use of rockets. Nowhere in Pakistan, including the most troubled city of Karachi, has a rocket been used so far.

Weapon experts were deployed by the administration of Hyderabad, the city where violence erupts off-and-on despite strict security measures, to determine the make and

the sources of supply of rockets, whether these were Pakistani made or imported and through which route these were smuggled into Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, a leading daily has castigated the People's Party's government in Sind province for its ineptitude to curb violence in Hyderabad, about 100 miles northeast of Karachi.

In an editorial captioned "Qiamat sugra in Hyderabad" (mini doomsday in Hyderabad) the mass circulation Urdu newspaper Jang said: "For the last few days mini doomsday is in evidence in and around Hyderabad in the form of lawlessness, looting, bloodshed and terrorism, and this is something of which there is not parallel in the history of entire Pakistan."

"This time violence and terrorism have

assumed such disconcerting proportions that despite imposition of curfew people and their properties are under constant attack.

For the last two days, the newspaper went on, rockets are raining on the city killing and wounding innocent people and destroying houses and shops. Snipers are indiscriminately opening fire. Several places have been the targets of bomb blasts. Even the ambulances were set on fire. Thousands of people blocked for nine hours the national highway linking Karachi with the hinterland of Pakistan. Residential colonies are being attacked by terrorists.

Instances have come to light where the terrorists used loudspeakers to guide accomplices where to attack. Jang said, adding that at certain places police constables refused to obey the orders of their officers to control acts of terrorism.

Clamour on for Chautala to resign

By Thomas Abraham

Arab Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 21: Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala is fast becoming a major embarrassment to the Janata Dal, the main constituent of India's ruling National Front, and to Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government.

After Thursday's violence, in which an independent candidate was killed in Meham, the constituency from which Chautala is seeking election to the Haryana assembly, there has been a clamour for his resignation.

The election commission has now countermanded the election, the second time it has done so in three months. On February 27, when the by-election was first held, and on February 28, when polling was held in some booths, there was large scale violence and rigging, forcing the commission to order fresh elections in an unprecedented decision.

Apart from the fact that Chautala is the official Janata Dal candidate for the by-election, he also happens to be Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal's eldest son. When Devi Lal was appointed deputy prime minister, Chautala was chosen to succeed him as Haryana chief minister. He was not a member of the state assembly then and has to be elected before June 2 to continue as chief minister. He is contesting the May 26 by-elections from a second constituency.

On Saturday, a long time supporter of the Janata Dal and Magsaysay award winner Lakshmi Chand Jain quit in disgust as member of India's planning commission on the Meham issue. The resignation is bound to exert some pressure on the Janata Dal to take an early decision on the matter.

Jain 65, made it clear he would reconsider his decision only if Chautala stepped down or if the party leadership directed him to do so.

Another planning commission member and well known political activist Rajni Kohli also called for Chautala's resignation so as to ensure an objective investigation into Thursday's murder.

Both Jain and Kohli do not hold Chautala responsible for what happened on Thursday but, like many others, feel he should have owned up moral responsibility.

Jain told a hastily summoned press conference in his office that the Meham incidents had caused insufferable damage to the electoral system.

It must be pointed out here that Jain had campaigned actively against former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in his Lok Sabha constituency of Amethi last November and was in the forefront of the effort to highlight the alleged malpractices that took place there on polling day.

Jain's view now is that people like him who had taken a strong stand against electoral irregularities in Amethi could not remain silent when similar or worse things happen in Meham, especially when a party committed to moral values in politics is in power.

The resignation is bound to have some effect on several other prominent Dal leaders who have been maintaining silence on the issue, finding it difficult to choose between moral compulsion and political expediency.

After the February incidents, when Meham first hit the headlines, a Janata Dal committee had recommended that Chautala be replaced, some think that Devi Lal was in no mood to take it lying down. He flexed his muscles with acts like the resignation drama and the action against Industry Minister Ajit Singh. Devi Lal has now increased his hold on the party. With his nominee S. R. Bommai elected as interim president.

There are some indications, of course, that the political affairs committee of the party would meet soon and decide on a course of action. Many senior members of the committee feel that sacking Chautala was the only way to salvage the party's prestige, which has taken a severe beating.

The opposition Congress has been quick to seize the issue and extract the maximum mileage out of it, in sharp contrast to the February incidents when it chose to be restrained, leading to speculation of some understanding between it and Devi Lal.

In Parliament last week, the Congress mounted an offensive on the issue in both houses. In Rajya Sabha, it pressed for division on a motion seeking suspension of question hour to discuss the incident.

On Friday, to the ruling party's acute embarrassment, the motion was adopted though the National Front has a majority in the House.

Benazir allies claim victory

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 21, (AP): A pro-independence party aligned with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto declared victory in state legislative election today and promised to supply arms for a Muslim rebellion in Indian-held Kashmir.

No official results had been announced from the voting in the Pakistan-controlled area of Kashmir, but the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation League declared it had won. The first results were expected to be announced late tonight.

The Liberation League is allied with Benazir's Pakistan People's Party. Before the election, political analysts said Benazir's forces had a chance of winning.

Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, the Liberation League's general secretary, said in declaring victory that the group would create a special fund to provide weapons and training for the rebels across the border in the Indian-held area of Kashmir.

"We will not hesitate. We are ready for war with India," Ahmed said as supporters lifted him on their shoulders.

Others shouting: "Long live Bhutto. Long live Ahmed" fired Kalashnikov rifles into the air. Dozens of Pakistani soldiers watched from nearby jeeps mounted with machine-guns.

Analysts say that a victory in today's election of representatives to the Azad (free) Kashmir state assembly would either force the prime minister to deliver weapons and money to the rebels across the border in the Indian-held area of Kashmir.

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UK wooing EEC

SA sanctions maybe lifted

PARKNASSILLA, Ireland, May 21, (AP): Britain said yesterday it has wooed the European Economic Community into considering easing sanctions against South Africa.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd dismissed

Hurd said he was not sure whether the foreign minister will agree at a meeting next month to ease sanctions against South Africa.

But he said that even the most pro-sanctions members, Denmark and Ireland, agreed the community should now respond to South African President F.W. de Klerk's reform programme.

Hurd said he spoke of "easing the pressure to give encouragement to De Klerk and of the risks he is running.

"That general analysis is now a common approach," Hurd told reporters.

"We need to take stock ... the Portuguese, the Greeks, the Spanish, even the Dutch, the Belgians — we need to consider how we pin-point the signals, was the Greek phrase, so we can give encouragement."

Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins, in separate remarks to reporters, said the foreign ministers will decide what action to take about South Africa at their next meeting in Luxembourg in mid-June.

The foreign ministers of the 12-nation European Economic Community discussed South Africa during a weekend meeting in this southwest Ireland vacation resort.

Most of the community's leaders and foreign ministers have met De Klerk during the past two weeks while he has toured European capitals seeking support for his white-led government's reforms and pledged to abolish apartheid totally.

In February, Britain broke ranks with the community and eased embargoes after De Klerk released black leader Nelson Mandela and lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress.

But Britain needs agreement from its European partners to shift community-wide embargoes imposed in 1985 and 1986. The main ones are bans on the import of South African iron and steel, krugerrand gold coins, on new government investment and on military or nuclear co-operation.

■ De Klerk met with his West German counterpart, Richard von Weizsaecker, today in the first of a series of meetings with government officials in Bonn, aiming at drawing support for Pretoria's political reforms.

Later in the day, De Klerk, who is on his first official visit to Bonn, is scheduled to meet with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

■ Blacks angered by police shootings barricaded their township in the racially-torn South African gold mining centre of Welkom today, driving away intruders with stones and axes.

Abidjan police strike

ABIDJAN, May 21, (Reuters): Paramilitary gendarmes tore down road blocks manned by striking policemen today in Ivory Coast, the world's number-one cocoa-producing country, police sources and diplomats said.

Soldiers also took up positions on a major road in the main city, Abidjan, and witnesses said they heard some shots. Traffic was jammed in the centre of the city.

"It's a wildcat strike by policemen being broken up by gendarmes," one diplomat said. "The police presumably will be punished for wildcatting."

The West African state has been buffeted by protests and strikes since February in the most serious political unrest since independence from France in 1960.

Young military recruits demanding pay rises and an extension of their military service took over the main airport for a day last week and ran wild in Abidjan with commandeered cars and trucks. The government bowed to their demands.

Dockers had also threatened to stop work today but port sources said they would wait at least until Tuesday for a government reply to demands for pay rises and other concessions.

The police strike appeared to be confined to men at central police headquarters in Abidjan. Some other police stations were functioning normally.

Diplomats and others sources said police wanted higher salaries, unchanged for nine years, better insurance benefits and improved housing subsidies.

sed as "somewhat unreal" urging from the 49-nation Commonwealth — to which Britain also belongs — for the wealthy European trade bloc to maintain its modest embargoes against South Africa.

■

Tutu heckled 'Lay off Israel'

PASADENA, California, May 21, (AP): Activists from the militant Jewish Defence League heckled Archbishop Desmond Tutu, forcing cancellation of an outdoor reception for the Nobel peace prize winner at an episcopal church.

The protesters shouted angry epithets at Tutu, prompting All Saints Episcopal church officials to hustle the spiritual leader away from the area and cancel the outdoor reception yesterday.

"Tell him to lay off Israel," said I.R.V. Rubin, JDL spokesman. He was referring to the South African cleric's recent trip to the Middle East where he urged Jewish leaders to speak out in support of a separate Palestinian state.

The Rev. Dr. George Regas, rector of the church, said Tutu was not angered by the demonstrators.

"Please let them say what they want to say, because in my country they are not allowed to do that," Regas quoted Tutu as saying.

Before the confrontation, Tutu delivered an hour-long sermon to an overflow crowd. Up to 2,000 people were turned away and watched the service on closed circuit television sets outside.



Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela (left) and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat greet each other warmly in Cairo on Sunday. Both leaders were in Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arafat meets with Mandela

'Brothers in suffering'

CAIRO, May 21, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat, both champions of revolutionary change and now elderly world figures, greeted each other warmly yesterday and swapped notes on their campaigns in Africa and the Middle East.

PLO chairman Arafat, pistol strapped to his side and wearing military fatigues and checked Palestinian scarf or keffiyeh, shook hands vigorously with grey-suited Mandela.

They beamed at one another. It was their first meeting.

"We're brothers in suffering," said Arafat. "We have a lot to talk about. We're in the same trench."

"Yes, but it's okay to suffer when it's in a good cause," replied Mandela, the black nationalist freed in February after 27 years in prison and now negotiating with Pretoria for an end to apartheid and the formation of a non-racial state.

The two grey-haired leaders arrived in Egypt on Saturday and have held separate talks with Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity and the primary Arab peace broker between Palestinians and Israelis.

Mandela has offered a truce in his movement's armed struggle against Pretoria if South Africa's white rulers will make solid progress in dismantling apartheid.

While South African President F.W. de Klerk toured Europe in the hope of winning support in the form of financial loans for his reformist policies, Mandela said sanctions must stay.

For his part, the PLO chairman has tried in vain to draw his Israeli opponents into direct peace talks after renouncing terrorism and implicitly recognizing the state of Israel.

Already under pressure from militant Palestinians, Arafat's conciliatory strategy received a fresh blow yesterday with the killing of seven Arabs by a deranged Israeli.

The killing has prompted massive unrest in the Israeli-held territories.

Princess Royal to visit Moscow

LONDON, May 21, (Reuters): Queen Elizabeth's daughter, Anne, known as the Princess Royal, will travel to the Soviet Union this week for the first official visit by a member of the British royal family since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

The princess, a distant relative of imperial Russia's last Tsar, Nicholas II, leaves Britain on Wednesday and is expected to meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Thursday at the start of a 13-day trip.

Dockers had also threatened to stop work today but port sources said they would wait at least until Tuesday for a government reply to demands for pay rises and other concessions.

The police strike appeared to be confined to men at central police headquarters in Abidjan. Some other police stations were functioning normally.

Diplomats and others sources said police wanted higher salaries, unchanged for nine years, better insurance benefits and improved housing subsidies.

She will also address students at Moscow's state university, speak to religious leaders and attend a performance of the Bolshoi ballet.

The Queen, whose grandfather, George V, was a cousin of Tsar Nicholas, accepted an invitation to visit Moscow made by Gorbachev when they met in London last year.

The invitation was seen as a move aimed at healing a rift in Anglo-Soviet relations since the killing of the Tsar and his family.

She will also address students at Moscow's state university, speak to religious leaders and attend a performance of the Bolshoi ballet.

Brice said he would not discuss what Baker might have said in private, saying only, "we want to see talks going" between Moscow and the Lithuanian leaders.

"We want to see self-determination of the people of Lithuania."

Presses on the US position regarding whether Lithuania should go along with Moscow's demand that it suspend the independence gambit, Bush added that "there's no point when you're trying to make progress to discuss every aspect of it in public."

The 23-nation conventional arms talks in Vienna have been stalled for months, largely because the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact has collapsed and Germany has been moving quickly to

the country and would make a trip with his wife and five children in December.

"We have no immediate plans to settle back there but of course we will eventually," he told Reuters.

David Brice said he now has Wood's old job as editor of the east London Daily Despatch, told Woods he had received a letter from President F.W. de Klerk saying he had been exonerated.

"I wish to inform you that there are neither restrictions on Mr Woods nor any charges outstanding against him,"

Russian workers strike in Estonia

Bid for independence opposed

TALLINN, Soviet Union, May 21, (Reuters): Russian-speaking workers opposed to Estonia's bid for independence went on strike in the Baltic republic today and urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to overrule the local government.

But the extent of the stoppage was unclear.

Leaders of the strike committee said workers at 11 plants in Tallinn, the capital, had joined the strike by midday but Estonian government officials put the figure much lower.

"We want guarantees of equal rights for all the people of the republic.

We have had enough of being repressed," said strike committee member Yuri Sokolov, speaking at makeshift headquarters in the Tallinn shipyard.

"We want Mikhail Gorbachev to introduce direct presidential rule and annual elections taken by our government. Otherwise there is a danger of civil war," he said.

Russian speakers, who make up at least 40 per cent of the republic's 1.5 million people, have been alarmed by Estonian government moves to restore the republic's independence.

Like neighbouring Latvia and Lithuania, also seeking to run their own affairs, Estonia was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940 after a secret deal between the Kremlin and Nazi Germany.

Gorbachev last week declared null and void a March 30 declaration by the Estonian parliament, and a similar move by Latvia of a "step-by-step" return to independence.

In Lithuania, which declared independence before its Baltic neighbours and has since faced a Kremlin economic blockade, parliament was scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss whether to suspend laws in an attempt to open independence talks with Moscow.

Russian workers, many of whom moved to Estonia after 1940, said they feared discrimination if the republic succeeded in breaking away from the Soviet Union.

They were also worried that market-oriented economic reforms planned by the new government would mean closure of old, inefficient and polluted heavy industry plants.

"We realise that there must be economic reforms, but we want social security as well," said Viktor Zakharov, a Russian who came to work in the Tallinn shipyard in 1971.

"They treat us here like second-class citizens. They call us occupiers. It's getting worse than South Africa," he said.

In practice, this would mean instituting an Islamic regime, reducing the role of women and cutting back economic links with the West.

Women dressed in traditional clothing have been under attack from Madison's supporters and demand females wear scarves covering their head, neck and ears.

Madison accused President Chadli Benjedid in a recent speech of "ruining a Muslim state in violation of Islamic law."

But many Algerians fear an Islamist victory. Even if they favour some of the smaller parties, they see the FLN as the only hedge against losing personal liberties.

"We regard the victory of the FLN as a lesser evil," said Abdellatif Shabani, a shopkeeper who would have backed the social democrats. "The FLN is still our best guarantee that we will not have to submit to an Iranian-style religious regime."

The FLN has made a significant comeback since the riots of October 1988 that left scores dead. The protests were sparked by falling oil prices and a decreasing standard of living.

The rioting crowds, believed to have represented a majority of Algerians, smashed the ruling party's vehicles, offices and installations in widespread dissatisfaction with the party.

Benjedid opened up the political system last year, legalising a dozen new parties and giving the electorate plenty of time to start making up its mind about the country's leadership.

No Western-style politician in Algeria and it is difficult to predict the outcome of the voting for the 1,500 municipal and provincial councils nationwide.

Demonstration marches have been held in recent weeks by the fundamentalists, the democratic groups and the FLN. The FLN — with free use of state-owned buses and trains — gathered an estimated 200,000 demonstrators at the biggest march, in Algiers.

The elections will have an direct bearing on the national People's Assembly, which should have at least two more years in office. Abdellatif Mehri, the FLN secretary-general, said victory for the opposition in the municipal elections may oblige the government to call legislative voting ahead of time.

But Western diplomats and observers of Algerian politics say privately an opposition victory is unlikely. The FLN holds a tight grip on the country's administration and employs tens of thousands of party officials paid by government funds.

The party uses official premises for its own ends and members drive state-owned cars. The national print and broadcast media are either owned by or biased in favour of the FLN.

Algeria polls fever begins

ALGIERS, May 21, (AP): An already divisive election campaign opened officially today in the first genuine multi-party challenge to the ruling National Liberation Front in three decades.

No matter who wins the municipal and regional elections June 12, the landscape of Algerian politics will change more than at any time since the socialist front, known as the FLN, came to power when the North African country won independence from France in 1962.

The chief opposition comes from the growing Islamic Salvation Front, a fundamentalist organisation that drew tens of thousands of supporters in a march through the capital last month.

On the left are a multitude of newly authorised small parties, including a Communist Party. Their weakness is highlighted by the shifting factions dividing an umbrella group, the Democratic Front, that has prevented any kind of coherent platform.

Faced with overwhelming odds against them, several parties of the Democratic Front have decided to boycott the elections, claiming they are not being organised fairly.

This leaves the Islamic Salvation Front, headed by Abbass Madani, a veteran of the eight-year war of independence and teacher of philosophy, as the principal opposition group. Madani has succeeded in inspiring the imagination of many of the poorly educated, uneducated masses in Algerian cities.

"You must allow Algeria to be ruled by the faith of 99 percent of its inhabitants," Madani tells the faithful in huge rallies that have become a weekly feature in recent months.

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Racism set stage for killings

Israeli govt indirectly responsible, says activist

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 21, (Reuters): A climate of anti-Arab racism set the stage for yesterday's killing of seven Palestinian labourers by an Israeli gunman, even if the killer had psychiatric problems, a leading criminologist said today.

Stanley Cohen of Hebrew University criticised the Israeli media and politicians for focusing on the killer's personal problems and ignoring the political context of his act.

"The climate of racism is created by the policies of the Israeli government, which is indirectly responsible for this," Cohen, a peace activist, told Reuters.

"Not that anyone in the Israeli government gave direct instructions, but racism is encouraged by government policy towards Palestinians and comments by leaders in recent years who dehumanised Arabs by calling them monsters and roaches."

Former chief of staff Rafael Eitan, now a rightist parliamentarian and prospective minister, once said Palestinians should be coked up "like cockroaches in a bottle."

Gunman Ami Propper, 21, dressed in army fatigues and carrying an M-16 rifle, rounded up a group of Palestinian labourers in central Israel for a simulated identity check. Then he emptied three magazines at their heads and chests, killing seven and wounding 16.

Police said Propper told them he attacked the Arabs because he was upset after his girlfriend left him and that he had been sexually molested by an Arab eight years ago.

Today, a magistrate remanded him for 15 days and sent him for psychiatric observation.

A group of Palestinian psychiatrists said in a statement that mental illness was used too

often as an excuse for murder by Israelis.

"Mental frustration can arouse aggressive impulses but the choice to carry them out by way of mass murder of Palestinians is determined by the chauvinistic and racist climate in Israeli society," they said.

In clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank following the shooting, another seven Palestinians were.

The head of the army's Southern Command, Major-General Matan Vilnai, told reporters that under the circumstances it was a moderate casualty toll.

President Chaim Herzog said shortly after the attack: "Every person and the entire nation shudder and abhor acts of lunacy such as this." Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called it an "act of madness."

Assad receives Iraqi invitation

Arab foreign ministers to meet today

DAMASCUS, May 21, (Agencies): A top Iraqi official today handed Iran's invitation to attend an Arab summit in Baghdad to Syrian President Hafez Assad.

It was the first time an Iraqi official has visited Syria since the two countries broke diplomatic relations in 1979.

Justice Minister Akram Abdul-Qader arrived aboard a special Iraqi Airways jet carrying the invitation from President Saddam Hussein.

Abdul-Qader met with Assad and handed over the invitation to the May 28 summit in a meeting also attended by Syrian Foreign Minister

Farouk Al Sharra. Hani Al Hassan, an envoy from PLO leader Yasser Arafat, also arrived in Damascus today.

In a related development, Arafat arrived in Baghdad in the morning and met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, who handed him the PLO's invitation.

The PLO announced on Friday that Arafat had sent a letter to the Damascus government asking Syria to reverse its stand boycotting the summit.

The summit has been beset by controversy.

It was called to discuss the emigration of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel and a perceived "Israeli and imperialist threat" against Iraq.

Saddam is seeking to rally support after Britain and the United States accused Iraq of trying to smuggle nuclear bomb triggers. Iraq denied it is developing nuclear weapons but threatened to use chemical weapons against Israel if attacked.

Arab foreign ministers arrived in Baghdad just hours after an Israeli gunman killed seven Palestinians and plunged the occupied territories into a ferment of violence in which Israeli soldiers shot and killed nine more Arabs and wounded over 700.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo described the violence as "a message to the Arab summit."

"There is no longer any excuse for not taking part because the dangers facing the Arab nation are far greater than any peripheral differences," he told a news conference in Amman.

Diplomats said that governments throughout the region were anxious awaiting the outcome of the missions by the Iraqi and Palestinian envoys.

"If they can bring Assad to Baghdad, it will be a triumph for us all. If they fail, it could make the situation worse. Our enemies will gloat over Arab weakness," a PLO official said.

The ministerial conference opens tomorrow.

Algeria, often a barometer of sentiment because of its central position on Arab issues, was sending out signals that it now had cold feet about a summit without Syria.

"There should have been more preparation ... but the limited time did not allow inter-Arab moves to clear the atmosphere and ensure the summit's success," Algerian President Chadli Benjedid told a meeting of Arab lawyers yesterday.

The Iraqis are also seeking to rally support after Iraq-bound shipments said to contain parts for a "super gun" capable of hitting Israel were seized in Britain, Greece, Turkey and Italy.

The Greek government hopes that the upgrading of the diplomatic relationship between the two countries will lead to substantial normalisation and progress of their bilateral relations," the statement said.

The Greek government also wants Arab support for its hanging March 15 of a London-based, Iranian-born journalist, Farzad Bazoft, who was tried and convicted of spying for Israel.

Bazoft denied the charge, saying he was only trying to follow up on reports of deaths and injuries in a big explosion at an Iraqi military-industrial complex last summer.

Government spokesman Byron Polydoros said in Athens the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would also be upgraded. Details would be given later.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Secretary Mohammad Ali Faisal was in Riyadh for two days last week during which he held long talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

US, Iran in fresh talks over claim

Mohtashemi raps liberals

Syrians go to polls with wider selection

DAMASCUS, May 21, (Agencies): Syrians go to the polls tomorrow with a wider choice of candidates than usual as the government of President Hafez Al Assad makes room for independents without abandoning its 20-year hold on power.

Independents are guaranteed 84 seats in parliament, a third of the total, and could also win other seats contested by the National Progressive Front (NPF) led by Assad's ruling Baath Party.

Independent candidates, some spending over four million Syrian pounds (\$357,000) on their campaigns, have wooed voters with feasts, rallies, songs and speeches in the liveliest run-up to an election in many years.

Loudspeakers blare election programmes ranging from calls for liberalisation of the largely state-run economy to improved supplies of basic goods and medicine.

Hundreds of thousands of banners and pictures of candidates adorn Damascus and other city streets ahead of the two days of polling tomorrow and Wednesday.

The NPF, grouping five smaller parties as well as the Baath, has nominated candidates for only 166 seats in the 250-member parliament.

The rest will go to independents, who were allocated only 33 seats in the last election in 1986 when certain independents were guaranteed seats when included in an NPF list for each multi-seat constituency.

There are no parties in Syria other than the NPF six—Baath, Communist, Socialist Union, Socialist Unionist, Arab Socialist and Democratic Arab Socialist Parties.

But diplomats said a wider sprinkling of independents in the new parliament would mean that most shades of Syrian opinion were likely to be represented.

Interior Minister Mohammed Harba said in a rare interview that all candidates were free to explain their programmes to the public.



Assad (right) meeting with Qader Ali at the presidential palace in Damascus yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

US, Iran in fresh talks over claim

Mohtashemi raps liberals

THE HAGUE, May 21, (Agencies): The United States and Iran opened a fresh round of talks today to try to settle Iran's \$1 billion claim over US military contracts broken after the 1979 Iranian revolution, a US diplomat said.

Abraham Sofcer, the US State Department legal adviser, will meet his Iranian counterpart Goudarz Eftekar-Jaromi during two of the three days of talks.

The claim is the largest pending in the Iran-US claims tribunal set up nine years ago in the Hague to determine financial damages after the two countries broke diplomatic ties.

Washington admits that much of the military equipment ordered under the Shah was never delivered, but says it is only worth millions of dollars.

Iran has been pressing for years for an out-of-tribunal settlement. The case involves some 2,500 inter-linked contracts for military equipment and services and could take years of litigation to settle before tribunal judges.

The leader of Iran's most virulent anti-Western faction yesterday accused liberal critics of the government of acting as agents for the United States.

Parliament member Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, addressing a group of Tehran University students, said the liberals were "drifting toward and upholding the

influence of the United States and the west in Iran."

The former interior minister said the group had never accepted the revolutionary path of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, who led the fight to overthrow the Shah in 1979.

They were, he said, "a group which has stood against the Imam's path from the very beginning" because they were so enamored by Western democracy.

Ninety liberal Iranian journalists instrumental in the 1979 revolution wrote an open letter to President Hashemi Rafsanjani last week demanding the restoration of constitutional rights and condemning the government for trampling civil liberties.

The letter also accused the government of mismanaging the economy and isolating Iran internationally. Among the most prominent signers was Mehdi Bazargan, the Islamic republic's first prime minister after the Shah was toppled.

Rafsanjani called the group "politically bankrupt."

The newspaper Jomhuri Islami, which often speaks for the anti-Western camp, said on Saturday the group should be punished as traitors.

Mohtashemi said that Iran should follow the teachings of Khomeini, who rejected ties with both the East and the West.

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Mohtashemi raps liberals

SANAA, May 21, (Reuters): Women in conservative North Yemen are wondering whether political union with the South heralds liberal reforms to their status or a tide of Muslim fundamentalist restrictions ahead.

Many women with liberal views fear the march of social change may reverse when North and South Yemen formally declare their unification at the end of this month.

The South is more liberal than the North in its treatment of women but it is unclear what sort of government will emerge from elections to be held after unification.

Pressure from Muslim fundamentalist groups in both Yemen, traditionally religious societies in the southern Arabian peninsula, has grown in the past

decade.

Already there are signs that the South, which until last year was officially socialist, wants to reinstate time-honoured restrictions on women in schools and in the workplace, some women say.

"We are looking forward to unity," said Nagwa Yahia Zabarah, director of North Yemen's environmental health education.

"We don't know what is going to happen next but we hope to improve ourselves with some of their (the South's) advantages—my feeling is their way of life will influence us," she told Reuters.

Zabarah, 31, said she hoped the new country would have at least one female deputy minister and would adopt a comprehensive family law similar to one in South Yemen, giving women rights in

marriage, divorce and child custody.

Anti-Arab attacks in Jerusalem

Israelis lenient

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 21, (AP): Israeli activists and Palestinian leaders say lenient sentences for anti-Arab attacks were a key reason behind the anger that triggered large-scale unrest after the shooting deaths of seven Gaza labourers.

Few Israelis suspected of killing Arabs have been brought to court since the start of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Counting yesterday's shooting and subsequent riots in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, 702 Palestinians have died from Israeli gunfire in the uprising. Another 216 have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected pro-Israeli collaborators. Forty-three Israelis have died in the violence.

But since December 1987, of the 35 cases of Palestinians killed by Israeli civilians, only five have resulted in trials, sentences or indictments, according to the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem.

The stiffest sentence for murder has been three years in prison. Palestinians convicted of murder almost always get life sentences and their homes are demolished.

"The government is responsible because they don't punish enough someone who does that," said Jamal Abu Daka, one of the 11 wounded in yesterday's attack near Tel Aviv, speaking from a hospital bed.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders reacted swiftly to the attack, described by police as the worst assault of its kind in memory.

"We are in shock from this criminal act," Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said. "He (the suspect) will be brought to trial and punished for what he did."

Palestinian leaders were sceptical about the expressions of regret.

"Condemnations from politicians isn't enough," Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij told Israeli radio. "What is needed are jail sentences for people who commit such crimes against Arabs."

In the last three years, the stiffest sentence for killing an Arab was passed on Jewish settler Yisrael Zeev from Shilo in the occupied West Bank. He is serving a three-year jail sentence for shooting to death a shepherd from a nearby village in 1988.

Another settler has been sentenced to five and a half years in jail for shooting and wounding two Arabs near Tel Aviv a year ago.

Only one other Israeli, settlement leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger, has been sentenced for slaying a Palestinian.

He received a five-month sentence after a plea bargain, for causing the death of a merchant in Hebron during a stone-throwing incident in 1989. Dozens of settlers carried Levinger to jail on their shoulders last week.

Such cases as the 1988 burning of a shack near Tel Aviv, which resulted in the death of three Arab labourers, and the April 1989 shooting attack by a man in army uniform in occupied Jerusalem that left one Palestinian dead and three wounded, have not been resolved.

Arab youths convicted of stone-throwing attacks usually get tough sentences even when no injury is caused.

For example, last year this reporter watched a Ramallah military court sentence 15-year-old Munzer Zaatar to 10 months in jail for a rock-throwing incident in which nobody was hurt.

Palestinian attorney Ali Gozlan noted a recent case of an Arab youth in occupied Jerusalem who got four years for damaging a car by a stoning although nobody was hurt.



Herzog in Sweden

Israeli President Chaim Herzog arrived in Stockholm late Sunday for a two-day official visit to Sweden, one of Israel's most persistent critics in Western Europe.

Herzog declined to comment on Sunday's shooting of Palestinian labourers in Rishon Letzion and ensuing riots in the occupied territories.

The fish-born, 71-year-old Israeli head of state was formally invited by the King of Sweden for a state visit Monday and Tuesday. Herzog, who will have talks with the government of Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson on Monday and meet parliamentarians Tuesday, will go to Finland for a first visit on Wednesday. He will then return to Sweden briefly.

In the picture, Israeli President Chaim Herzog with his wife Ayelet Herzog arrives at Stockholm airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

Khaliqyar calls on rebels to end war

KABUL, May 21, (Reuters): The Soviet-backed Kabul government, presenting its new cabinet today, said it was up to Afghans to end nearly 12 years of war instead of waiting for outside powers to decide their future.

"We cannot wait for what decision will be made outside the country on Afghanistan," Prime Minister-designate Fazal Haq Khaliqyar told the national assembly.

The Kabul government is fighting a virtually stalemate war with mujahideen rebels who get much of their support from the United States.

But diplomats said a meeting scheduled for May 30 between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush in Washington held the real key to any solution since Afghan fighters would have to wind down the war if denied foreign supplies.

The Soviet Union has suggested several times that Moscow and Washington both stop supplying weapons to the two Afghan sides.

Khaliqyar, severely wounded last month in a rebel attack, was named prime minister this month by Afghan President Najibullah.

Foreign correspondents were taken into the national assembly hall after Khaliqyar, a former provincial governor, had already begun to speak.

Members of the new cabinet were sitting on either side of Khaliqyar on the podium. Their names were not immediately given, but those holding some major portfolios appeared unchanged.

The formation of the new cabinet, the third since Najibullah came to power in late 1

14 haj caravans to leave Kuwait

Accommodations inspected

THE controller of the Haj Affairs Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Al Saleh has said that 46 Haj caravans will leave Kuwait for the Holy Lands this Haj season. He said that the adhoc committee

entrusted with checking out the accommodations rented for Hajis have already inspected hotels where reservations have been made for participants in caravans. They have also inspected the buildings rented by 19 others.

He pointed out that the ministry has requested the organisers of local haj caravans to appoint a representative for each caravan to co-ordinate with the KAC staff regarding the Hajis who are flying to the Holy Lands and to provide

their passport and tickets 12 hours before the time of departure of their flight.

He said that the representative will be officially responsible for the caravan for all organisational matters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ropme meeting

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): A technical working team of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) yesterday began its first meeting here to discuss the effects of climate changes on coastal areas.

Ropme's General Co-ordinator of Technical and Administrative Affairs, Dr Badriya Al Awadi addressing the participants said the meeting aims at evaluating the effects of the climate changes on economic and social activities of the coastal areas.

She added that the participants will explore appropriate policies and alternative techniques to reduce the volume of effects.

The four-day meeting is being held in co-operation with the United Nations programme for environment, she added.

Bulgarian minister

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): Bulgarian Minister of Tourism Stoyan Ziolev yesterday arrived here on a three-day official visit in response to an invitation by the board chairman and director-general of the Touristic Enterprises Company Muhamed Al Sanousi.

During his visit here, the Bulgarian minister will meet with Minister of Finance Jassim Al Khorafi, Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Al Khalid and Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Al Hamad as well as senior officials in public and private sectors.

The talks will centre on economic activities' investment in Bulgaria.

Agriculture papers

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): Arab experts in agriculture convened for the second day yesterday discussing the agricultural situation in the Arab world within a symposium organised by the Arab Institute for Planning.

Yesterday's deliberations centred on three papers analysing the agricultural policies in the Arab countries. The first, by Dr Abdulhusain Al Atiya of the Jordanian University, entitled "the current situation and the desired future for Arab integration strategies in agriculture and foodstuff production."

The paper discussed the unsatisfactory situation of the agricultural industry in the Arab region, calling for new policies and fairer exploitation of existing resources for the benefit of the Arab people.

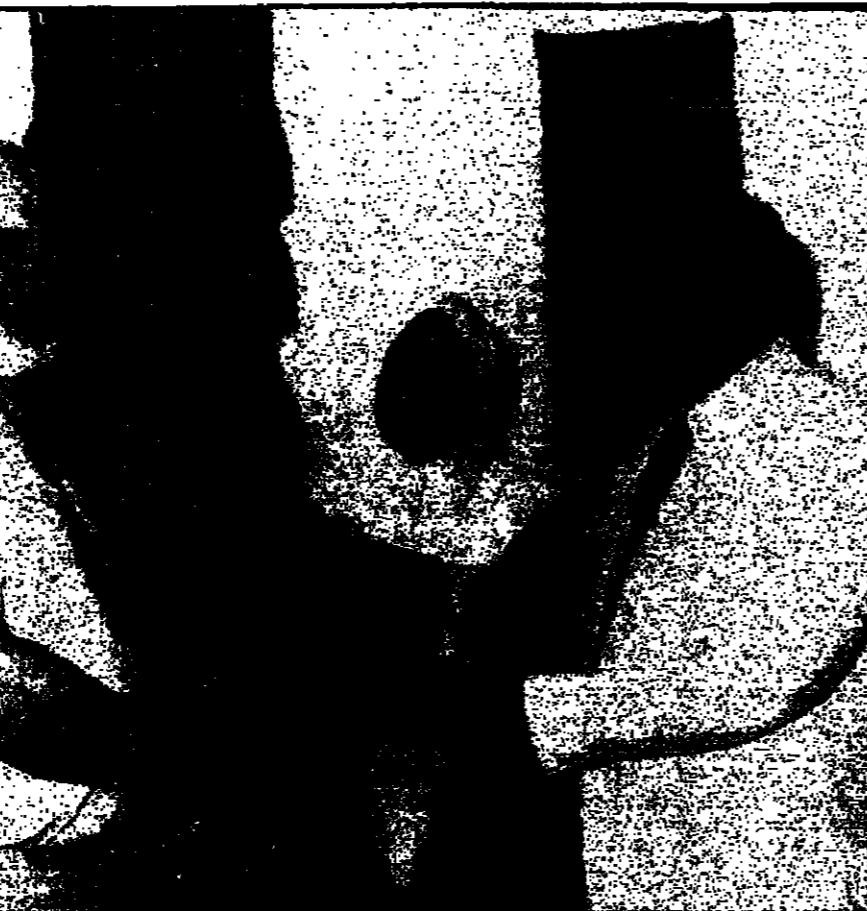
The second paper, which dealt with variations of agricultural policies in Iraq, was prepared by Nabil F. Al Nouri who made the conclusion that more attention is needed to intensify co-ordination for setting prices and distributing products.

The third paper discussed agriculture in Jordan, proposing local and regional suggestions for enhancing inter-Arab co-operation in this field.

Haj affairs

DOHA, May 21. (QNA): The board of director of the Arab Gulf Folkloric Centre began its 7th meeting in Doha yesterday. It was presided over by its chairman and the Qatari Minister of Information and Culture, Sheikh Hamad Bin Saheem Al Thani. In his opening speech Sheikh Hamad praised the efforts being made by the board of directors of the centre to spot light on the civilised aspects of Gulf heritage. He added that the main object of the centre is the stress that the Gulf region is not rich with its oil only but also has a very rich cultural heritage.

He hinted that the centre has been facing financial difficulties which greatly affected its activities. He called for seriously studying this matter by putting into consideration the great importance of the centre. Stability can be achieved to the centre's projects and programmes only if enough financial resources are provided. Sheikh Hamad emphasised.



Bayan School accreditation

Michael Maybury, the executive secretary of the European Council of International Schools, representing both the European Council of International Schools in England and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in the United States, is shown presenting the Plaque of Accreditation to William Pollock, Director and Samia Al Farra, assistant director of Al-Bayan School.

Bayan School is now a fully accredited school—nursery through Senior 6—and in addition to these two accrediting organisations, Bayan School is also accredited by the Kuwait Ministry of Education.

Folklore meeting

Gulf centre facing financial difficulties

DOHA, May 21. (QNA): The board of director of the Arab Gulf Folkloric Centre began its 7th meeting in Doha yesterday. It was presided over by its chairman and the Qatari Minister of Information and Culture, Sheikh Hamad Bin Saheem Al Thani. In his opening speech Sheikh Hamad praised the efforts being made by the board of directors of the centre to spot light on the civilised aspects of Gulf heritage. He added that the main object of the centre is the stress that the Gulf region is not rich with its oil only but also has a very rich cultural heritage.

The meeting then began the discussion of the centre's achievements during the past year. It included a project the pottery industry in Bahrain, a project for collection of popular tales in the Arab Gulf states, gathering and classification of customs and traditions related to life in the Gulf besides carrying out a project on the prevailing popular medicine in the state of Qatar. Among the future programmes of the centre is the collection of Bedouin literature in addition to songs and documentary programmes.

Representatives from the six GCC states and Iraq attended the meeting.

Difficulties

Director general of the Centre Abdul Rahman Al Manaei also insisted on the urgent need to solve the financial difficulties facing the centre. He warned

that the very existence of the centre is at stake because of this problem. He reminded the meeting of the many achievements of the centre over the past few years. He said that the centre's publications have become main references on Gulf folklore. He called for assisting the centre to preserve its existence, identity and continue to carry out its programmes and projects.

Discussion

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UAE-Iran promoting culture

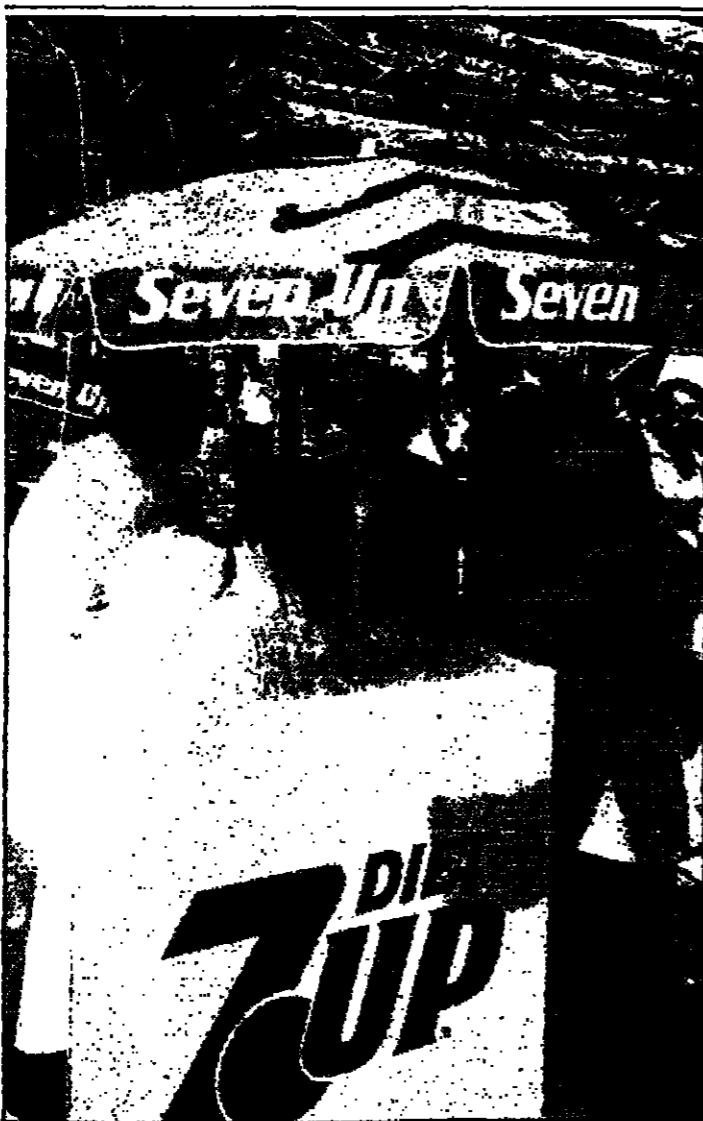
UAE Minister of Information and Culture Ahmad Bin Hamid recently held talks with visiting Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammed Khatami.

Official sources told Kuna that the two officials reviewed during their meeting ways of boosting and promoting cultural and information exchange between the two countries, particularly in the technical fields.

They also discussed organisation of fairs and cultural weeks and production and exchange of cinematic films, in addition to co-operation between the two countries' new agencies, the sources said.

They added that during the meeting, Hamid and Khatami agreed to form a committee of experts and technicians from the two sides to study draft information and cultural accords between the two countries.

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7-Up sampling

Diet 7-Up 'the best tasting' Diet soft drink was sampled for the first time in Kuwait, to some 4,000 consumers on May 11, during Kuwait's popular Raft Race Day. Diet 7-Up's improved taste received an outstanding rating by the samplers. This is specifically due to its one calorie intake and the fact that Diet 7-Up tastes as good as regular 7-Up. The diet 7-Up image was further enhanced by attractive looking booths by four efficient promoters.

THE working team formed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ensure that local and international firms contracted by the government of Kuwait purchase all their supplies and equipment from the local market regardless of whether the producer is a public or a private company, has finished a

Expenditure rationalisation implemented since '89

THE rationalisation of public spending still receives major support by various government service sector, without affecting the level of performance.

Al Seyassah sources have learned that one of the multi-faceted processes of rationalisation was implemented last year when the furniture of employees provided with government accommodations was renewed instead of replaced with new items. This reduced spending under this item of the budget by 70 per cent.

Another form of rationalisation took shape in the reduction of the rentals of a total of 109 different contracts for administrative and accommodations buildings. The cancellation of 31 contracts of flat-type residential units saved KD 2.1 million.

The power consumption rates in public offices, ministries and other government sites dropped as a result of emphasis on cutting the power supply outside official hours.

According to the current five-year plan follow-up report all these achievements did not lead to a surplus in the total sum of public spending compared with what was endorsed in the budget of last year.

On the contrary, the total spending exceeded the 3.7 per cent estimated, and consequently the development spending on various construction projects, equipment and communication means accounted for only 58 per cent of what was allocated for in the budget.

MPH sets guidelines for evaluation of physicians

THE present method of evaluating physicians and staff at the Ministry of Public Health is based on personal preferences selected from the weak and excellent levels of employees.

Issuing this statement, the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health for technical affairs, Dr Tareq Al Abdul Jader said that the ministry in cooperation with other ministries has set up a joint committee to formulate a set of scientific guidelines for conducting evaluation procedures of ministry's staff.

On completion of an acceptable formula, these will be presented to the Council of Ministers and Civil Service Council.

Briefly, he said that the new methods takes into consideration the nature of work of every employee, according to his abilities and his input into developing work. He disclosed that the ministry is seeking ways to link administrative promotion with attendance of training courses, participation in local and foreign medical conferences and the undertaking of scientific researches.

Jader criticised physicians who receive gifts from patients and also called on patients not to extend such favours as it amounts to conflict of interests.

Israeli threats empty: envoy

KUWAIT, May 20. (Kuna): A representative of Kuwait's Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday arrived here to supervise the 3rd Kuwaiti relief aid shipment to Lebanon.

Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al Sabah, who was received at Damascus airport by Kuwait's Ambassador here Ahmad Al Jassem, met following his arrival with a number of Syrian officials in this regard.

Drug addiction takes new turn

Large quantities seized

THE ARREST Saturday of five Kuwaitis involved in an international drug ring aroused speculations that drug smuggling and distribution in the country has been increasing. Most concerned officials in the country have reportedly denied that drug addiction is a big phenomenon in the country but all

out of 343 accused of drug crimes in 1986, Kuwaitis were 92 or about 30 per cent. In the next three years of 1987, 88 and 89, Kuwaitis formed 30 per cent and 47 per cent respectively of persons involved in drug crimes.

Also, during the past four years, there were 114 crimes of smuggling drugs, 128 crimes of trading in drugs and 86 crimes relating to taking drugs. 53 per cent of the drugs that were smuggled into the country and were later seized, had been smuggled through the airport, while the rest were smuggled through land and sea. Officials statistics show that married men constitute the largest number of addicts in Kuwait. They form 72 per cent of the total addicts followed by bachelors with 24 per cent and the rest were divorced men. Women still remained outside the drug problem as only 4 ladies out of 243 drug accused were arrested last year. This represents only 2 per cent. Men in the age group between 31-36 years were found to be the most involved in drug crimes closely followed by men in the age group between 25-30 years. Both these categories formed 65 per cent of all men accused in drug crimes

over the past 5 years. Unemployed men constituted 12 per cent of the drug defendants followed by unskilled labourers.

Concerning the types of drugs that are most circulated in Kuwait, hashish, heroin, opium, marijuana and pills are the major drugs. Statistics show that although the number of drug cases have dropped over the past few years, the quantities seized have greatly increased. In 1985 for example, the authorities seized 19 kgs of hashish, 1.5 kgs of heroin, 2 kgs of opium and 113,000 pills. In 1988, however, the security forces seized 84 kgs of hashish, 4 kgs of heroin 8 kgs of opium and as many as 8.5 million pills. Although no official statistics are available, the quantities of narcotics seized in the past two years is certain to be much more.

Another alarming indication is that majority of the addicts have either primary, intermediate or secondary education. In 1985 for example 18 percent of the addicts had their primary education only, 25 percent had intermediate education and 30 percent had secondary education. 14 percent illiterates and 8 percent university graduates.



Camp meeting

The assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for youth affairs, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroe met with the administrative committee of the 41st labour camp for youth to be organised under the motto "Kuwait is a Green Oasis."

The camp to be organised in Kuwait will commence on Aug 7, 1990 and end on August 29.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the ministry and supervisors of different camps at the ministry.

UAE afforestation

Population problems may threaten dreams

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): Population pressures in the United Arab Emirates could cause serious power and water shortages, threatening its rulers' dreams of greening the desert, a London-based think-tank said yesterday.

The Economist Intelligence Unit study, "The United Arab Emirates through the 1990s: fitful recovery ahead," predicts major gaps between production and consumption of vital services, with authorities reluctant to curb demand by cutting subsidies.

"It is conceivable that with some 70 per cent of demand for water accounted for by agriculture, parks and gardens, the growth in supplies of these sectors could be deliberately curtailed," said a statement with the report.

"Houses have become larger and better equipped and gardens more lavish, while commercial and hobby farms deplete underground aquifers..." it said.

"The grass on Dubai's glamorous new golf course, designed as a major tourist attraction, is said to account for some two per cent of Dubai's total water consumption."

Briefly, he said that the company had been established in 1989 and the recycling plant to be built by the company will cost about KD 10 million and is expected to be ready for commissioning during the first quarter of 1993. He said that the plant is to be based in the Amman area and the company will concentrate on producing fertiliser from waste along with some metals and paper.

The official gave the following breakdown for wastes: 40 per cent vegetables, 20 paper, nine cartons, six enamels, five textiles, five metals, 13 plastic, 5 wood and 2 per cent non-manufactured materials.

He expressed satisfaction over the Syrian authorities' previous help to the first and second Kuwaiti aid shipments to Lebanon.

A convoy of 58 trucks, which

Waste plan

THE managing director of Organic Fertilisers Company, Dr Dawoud Al Sowaih has confirmed the importance of preserving the environment by scientifically getting rid of wastes by utilising recycling methods.

Speaking at a press conference held on the premises of his company, the official said that Kuwait pays great concern to the disposal of wastes from an environmental aspect and praised the government's role towards preserving the environment which is mainly represented in its plan to afforest the country.

Disclosing that Kuwait will soon be free of waste, he said that his company is devoted to converting waste into fertiliser.

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Study on local purchasing completed

Protection for manufacturers

study on this matter.

An official source told a local daily that the working team in charge of recommending the best means to carry out the minister's decision and ensuring that producers complied with standard specifications and keep agreed prices under control, has also finished a study on its work-

ing plan.

The sources said that the study report accounted for the degree of commitment shown by producers, of products subject to protection, to standard specification.

The source also said that the working team in charge of reconsidering existing protection

policies to give greater support to local industries and subjecting the protection requirements to a set of parameters, such as the added value, calculated value and evaluating the protection element in the light of the project first year of production is expected to conclude a study in this respect soon and the results will be followed up.

Meanwhile, the council of ministers has authorised the local industrial development committee to protect all manufacturers whose production capacity covers minimum 40 per cent of the local market demand for a renewable period of three years.

Czechoslovakia re-affirms relations with Kuwait

Elections to make changes

VIENNA, May 21. (Kuna): Czech Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier reaffirmed his country's desire to strengthen co-operation with Kuwait in various fields.

He expressed hope in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), that he will make up for the visit that he was scheduled to pay to Kuwait last April.

He ruled out, however, that it will be paid before his country's parliamentary elections scheduled for June 8 and 9.

Priority to self sufficiency in food

POLITICO-ECONOMICS specialist at the Ministry of Planning Dr Hussein Taha Al Faqeer told Al Seyassah that there is a set of major factors which make the implementation of food security strategy a basic challenge facing the Third World countries.

He pointed out that any success achieved in this respect by any country is but a prominent indicator of the growing capabilities of this country to gain independence from economic dependence on other countries for food supplies.

He added that this is the primary reason which urged national thinkers in all countries of the world which were caught in the food trap, to stress the need for according top priority to achieving self-sufficiency in agro-production, food, and securing strategic needs.

The trap of economic food dependence and the emergence of famines which have claimed millions of lives in Africa and Asia had been part of a sinister scheme to keep these countries under economic dependency and drive growing economies into lop-sided mergers emerging in the international markets, the specialist said.

He pointed out that amidst the growing awareness of the need to achieve food security, which characterised the post world war era, advanced countries began to devise means to help their countries secure a steady flow of raw material and find suitable markets to dispose of their increasing industrial and agricultural outputs.

He continued that this mainly depended on different ways of direct plunder of Asian, African and Latin American countries' resources, under the guise of aid and technical help to support national development processes.

Inadequate

Despite the huge agricultural resources available in the Arab world which, if optimally exploited, could lead to the achievement of food security, the efforts exerted in the field of integrating food security projects are still meagre and inadequate, Faqeer said.

He added that food imports by Arab countries is still high, both in quantity and in value and that according to a statistics \$4,802 million was spent in 1986 as price for grains, compared to \$3,252 million in 1980.

To face up to the challenge posed by the food security problem, a unified Arab strategy needs to be drawn up and invigorated by huge political support to be commensurate with the size of potentials needed to be mobilised, the expert commented.



US commander

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaaf Al Ahmad yesterday received the Commander of the US Joint Forces in the Middle East, Admiral William M. Fogarty and the accompanying delegation, US Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell attended the meeting. Discussions centred on developing ties between the two countries.

Fogarty, who arrived in Kuwait Sunday on an official visit to the country will also meet a number of officials during his stay here.

Re-export trade

Kuwaitis have lost out to Dubai, say merchants

KUWAIT: Al Seif Market in the past, constituted the main market in the country for re-exporting goods to Iran, at a time when Kuwait was a main centre for all countries in the region prior to these activities shifting to Dubai.

This market has begun witnessing a slight, but noticeable movement of goods coming from Iran to the Kuwaiti markets, but generally speaking it is still dormant since the mid 1980s.

He added that the demand for Iranian foodstuff had increased in the local market and this had eventually led to a 25 per cent increase in prices. He added that most Kuwaiti merchants import Iranian goods via Dubai except about 10 per cent who import directly from Iran.

He disclosed that some Kuwaiti merchants who traditionally deal with Iranian markets had established their own office in Dubai and for the time being import directly from Iran and then export the same to Kuwait. Preferential customs facilities given by Dubai Authorities were behind the Kuwaiti merchants move, he said.

Ali Dashti complained that the current situation of the Kuwait market does not encourage the re-export process in view of what he called bureaucratic obstacles. He clarified that Kuwait customs restrictions do not encourage re-exports to the Iranian market.

He added that the Iranian market is a huge one and in need of every kind of consumer goods, but the restriction imposed on the arrival of Iranian merchants to Kuwait has obliged them to

Dubai, referring that direct imports will be better for Kuwaiti merchants and will curtail relevant costs.

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divert to Dubai.

He added that the current re-export system was impeding business activities. He criticised the inspection procedures followed by Al Doha Port, clarifying that the re-exported goods should not be subject to this kind of inspection procedures.

Improvement

He added that he recently perceived an improvement in the volume of commercial exchange between Kuwaiti market and its Iranian counterpart, clarifying that the Kuwaiti Doha Port was witnessing the anchorage of four Iranian ships weekly.

He disclosed that some leading companies in Kuwait are currently importing Iranian gravel to be used in the flag stone industry, particularly in the wake of the price hike of the Italian gravel.

He said that Iranian foodstuff in Dubai is cheaper than Kuwait, attributing this phenomenon to the commercial facilities given there and the competition prevailing among the merchants.

Meanwhile, Dashti expects that the Kuwaiti market will restore a great part of its lost business activities in view of the proximity of this market to South Iran, particularly, Abadan and Mohammerah which represent the most purchasing power in the Iranian market.

He added that the Iranian market is a huge one and in need of every kind of consumer goods, but the restriction imposed on the arrival of Iranian merchants to Kuwait has obliged them to

Abdalla stops over

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Abdalla arrived here today on a brief visit to the country, before flying to Baghdad to attend the Arab foreign minister's meeting on May 22-23.

The Omani state minister is scheduled to head to Baghdad later aboard the same plane with Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed to take part at the said meeting.

Bin Alawi was greeted by Sheikh Sabah, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Ossaimi, Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen, the Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Heid Al Sayabi and other foreign ministry officials.

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He affirmed, however, that Czechoslovakia at the same time opposes the settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Dienstbier arrived in Vienna yesterday to participate in the conference of the foreign ministers of "The five-man gathering for regional co-operation of the Danube and Adriatic river," which groups beside Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Italy and Yugoslavia.

NBK chief defends disbursal of shares

THE chairman of the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Mohamed Al Khorafi has defended the bank's policy of disbursing a part of dividends as shares to shareholders and said that shares are allocated to facilitate shareholders to deal in trading their shares.

This policy is intended to serve the interests of good establishments that expand their base and in effect this practice does not cause any problems for the bank or incur any additional financial liabilities.

The official said that the bank's policy in this respect has been in force since 1985 and the capital and assets of the NBK exceeded one billion Kuwaiti Dinars. Koharafi said: "The world today does not place much trust in banks that have narrow financial bases or small assets due to the increase of the spread of risks."

Commenting on the scenario that Arab banks will encounter in Europe after the unification of Europe in 1992, he believed that the activities of NBK and their banking interests will increase in the international market.

The restrictive practices on non-European banking sectors have been anticipated and NBK has taken a pragmatic decision to open several branches in Europe before unification of the European system.

The official said that the Government of Kuwait is addressing the problems facing national banks presently, and commented that they will be "solved in due course."

On the merger of some commercial banks in the country, he said that NBK is a bank with considerable assets and is well established as a bank of high repute and thus, NBK will not be facing any negative effects.

However, he categorically denied that there are any moves to merge NBK with any of the commercial banks or other financial institutions.

Omani minister

JEDDAH, May 21. (Kuna): Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz yesterday received a message from Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman.

Omani Minister of Information, Abd Al Aziz Al Rawas, delivered the message in an audience with King Fahd here.

He said that the message was carefully studied and soon will be finally endorsed by the university council and the higher studies faculty.

Pride

Dean of the faculty of medicine Dr Abdul Latif Al Bader delivered a statement on the occasion expressing pride in the outstanding level of the 181 graduates.

Bader urged the graduates to maintain their high standards and not to give up research in its capacity as the basis of development.

Dean of the faculty of assistant medical sciences and nursing Dr Farida Al Awadi said that the college's celebration of its 8th batch of graduates reflects its success in providing all means of continuation.

She underlined that three of the female graduates were accepted as students in post graduate studies in the United States in medical specialisations and administration of medical data and noted that they will be the first in this sphere in Kuwait.

On behalf of the graduates, Dr Salih Ali Al Enezi said that studying medicine was not an easy matter but rather required constant efforts.

He said "our graduation is not the end in itself but rather the beginning of practical life in which a doctor can upgrade his scientific level."

Dr Shamlan and Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Razak Al Abdul Razak, who also attended the ceremony, handed over the graduation certificates in the presence of senior officials of both universities and parents of graduates.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I AM a slow walker, but I never walk backwards — Abraham Lincoln, US president (1809-1865).

Back in Pretoria Sachs buries exile spectre

CAPE TOWN, (Reuters): Anti-apartheid veteran Albie Sachs is teaching himself to talk openly on the telephone after spending 24 years in exile shadowed by South African spies.

The 55-year-old white lawyer says working for Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), Pretoria's main black opponent, has made him suspect every telephone is tapped.

Sachs is one of several leading ANC members who returned from exile this year to prepare for full political negotiations with South Africa's reformist white rulers. Amid the joy of seeing friends and relatives again, he has had problems adjusting.

"The transition from being on the run from the police, working underground ... to an open style of political work, you can't just do it in a day," he told Reuters in an interview.

Banning

"I can't use the telephone. It's finished. I have a little banning order up in my throat. The minute I'm speaking on the phone and I want to say where I'm going to, or who I'm going to meet, or what work I'm doing, an automatic censor stops me."

Sachs, who is divorced, trained as a lawyer in Cape Town but fled the country in 1966 after 170 days of detention in solitary confinement without charge or trial.

He is the ANC's leading constitutional thinker, a member of its policy-making National Executive Committee and an outspoken defender of civil liberties and intellectual freedom.

In a new South Africa "there will be a right to be bigoted in purely private life."

"But when it comes to excluding others from living in a house which they can afford simply because they are white or black, then that is invading their rights," Sachs said.

His fear of surveillance is well founded.

Bomb

He lost his right arm and his face was badly scarred in 1988 when a bomb exploded in his car in Mozambique, where he worked for 11 years as an ANC lawyer and strategist.

He says he is not bitter about the price of his opposition to apartheid but says such attacks have created a protective secrecy among his colleagues that is becoming unnecessary.

The ANC was banned for 30 years — a period when Pretoria boasted of its ability to infiltrate the organisation — until President F.W. de Klerk legalised black political activity in February in a bid to break South Africa's racial deadlock.

The organisation is believed to be debating whether to agree to De Klerk's demand that it suspend its low-level guerrilla campaign as part of the pre-negotiation process.

"We're moving into a different phase that requires a whole different culture of struggle," said Sachs, a tall, softly-spoken man. "You have to present yourself on TV. It's a new kind of battle and we have to rise to the occasion. The debate is on."

Sachs, who said he was speaking in his personal capacity rather than a De Klerk's demand, is negotiating team aims to retain key aspects of apartheid that regulate education and housing according to skin colour.

"They're still clinging. It's hard to let go and yet it's so silly, because what they should be doing is accept the fundamental democratic premise and then say 'Look, within that, we're worried about this and that,'" he said.

"Instead they're hanging on, clinging to the poles of racism and that makes it difficult to get the broad consensus and agreement that's necessary. But there's certainly been much more opening up and openness than we're accustomed to."

Media

ANC leaders are interviewed and quoted on state and pro-government media — something that would have been unthinkable a year ago under De Klerk's hardline predecessor P.W. Botha.

Sachs and the ANC study group he directs at Britain's Commonwealth Institute are examining the constitutions of all the world's nations to prepare for the negotiations.

"We're very interested in the Nordic countries because they've managed to combine high productivity with a fair measure of equality, strong welfare systems and political freedom. But we're not setting out to copy any particular country," he said.

Sachs says visit to Cape Town's racially-zoned areas since his return have shown him that apartheid is still in place.

After visiting a squat camp of cardboard and corrugated iron shacks he said its black residents "have hardly any rights at all. Until they get the vote they don't stand a chance."

Then he drove to the lush white coastal suburb of Sea Point where he grew up, breathing "the whiffs of salt air I haven't known for 24 years. I shiver with remembered pleasure and excitement. I feel at home. But it's another country."

He says a defiant anti-apartheid spirit exists among ordinary black people that he never noticed in the 1960s.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1629 — Denmark's King Christian IV is forced to sign peace of Lubeck with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand.

1693 — French again destroy Heidelberg and ravage the Rhineland.

1762 — Sweden and Prussia sign peace treaty of Hamburg.

1833 — Constitution in Chile gives greater power to president and establishes Roman Catholicism as state religion.

1822 — United States and Korea sign treaty of peace and friendship.

1914 — Britain acquires control of oil properties in the Gulf from Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

1918 — German planes raid Paris, France, in World War I.

1939 — Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini sign "Act of Steel," a 10-year political and military alliance between the two nations.

1967 — Communist-led riots occur in Hong Kong against British.

1973 — Britain and United States veto UN Security Council resolution to extend trade sanctions against Rhodesia to include South Africa and Portuguese territories in Africa.

1975 — White-ruled African nation of Rhodesia is expelled from Olympic competition because of its racial policies.

1982 — Britain says 5,000 of its troops have landed on Falkland Islands beachhead, and that 20 men are presumed dead in sinking of British missile Frigate.

1983 — Giant avalanche roars down on Teglio, tiny northern Italian village, killing 9 people and injuring at least 20.

1984 — Soviet forces are reported to continue to bomb access to the Panjshir Valley in northern Afghanistan, while also pursuing a diplomatic solution to the 4-year-old struggle against Muslim rebels.

1985 — A car bomb explodes in a Beirut suburb, killing 60 people and wounding 190 others.

1986 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expresses optimism that agreement to cut long-range nuclear weapons can be completed before US president Ronald Reagan leaves office.

1989 — India test-fires successfully its first medium-range surface-to-surface missile to cross threshold of ballistic missile capability.

Whites revolt in South Africa

They don't want a black next door

DURBAN, South Africa, (Reuters): Fear is the key to white politics in South Africa.

From the rough western mining town of Welkom, where men and women carry guns and threaten lynch law, to this eastern seaboard suburb where a retired teacher predicts he will administer a stunning electoral shock to reformist President F.W. de Klerk, whites are scared and their temper is showing.

In the centre of the country, whites roaming highways at night have beaten and shot black travellers.

Blacks protesting white vigilante assaults in the gold fields of Welkom killed two white miners, and khaki-clad whites, armed to the teeth, mustered demanding blood.

Extremists

Right-wing extremism is gaining strength and in the Durban political constituency of Umzini, where next month De Klerk faces voters for the first time since his reforms began to dismantle apartheid — the whites' barrier against a five-to-one black majority for 40 years — people tell you why.

"It's fear, fear of blacks," says Eve Jenkins, a campaign worker for the liberal Democratic Party. "People here have one thing on their minds — they don't want a black next door."

Most expect the Democrats to be crushed in June 6 whites-only parliamentary election in a mammoth fight between De Klerk's National Party, which has ruled South Africa since 1948, and the right-wing Conservative Party.

If the Conservatives win it will be a shocking upset for De Klerk.

This modest, middle and working class area of leafy streets and trim lawns has always been a Nationalist stronghold and in the general election last September the Conservatives were trounced here by a margin of 5-1.

Nationalism

But tapping a deep well of Afrikaner nationalism as the Nationalists make concessions to blacks, the Conservatives are steadily growing nationwide. Their candidate here, intense, bespectacled ex-schoolmaster Francis Hitchcock, says he will win and local people predict at least a close finish.

He says De Klerk has failed to carry white voters with him as he has moved towards sharing power with blacks, integrating schools and hospitals, legalising the banned African National Congress (ANC) and other opposition groups and releasing black leader Nelson Mandela from jail in 27 years in jail.

"De Klerk says he has a mandate for majority rule, but that's rubbish, lies," he said. "White people feel betrayed. They are fearful, panicking. Parents are scared. It's one thing to open doors, another to have six races in a classroom."

At the Ooops-a-Daisy florist and gift shop nearby, Shirley Watson says she moved here from white-rum Rhodesia after it became black-ruled Zimbabwe and black children of nine with coarse language moved into class with six-year-old whites. She worries about rising crime and says De Klerk is moving too fast.

Over at Woodlands bottle store 27-year-old trainee engine driver Martin van Deventer says his family voted National Party for 47 years "to keep the blacks out," but will do so no more.

Art Buchwald

Laying off workers to reduce cost

WE keep reading about people getting fired in the United States — 6,000 auto workers, 4,000 computer analysts, 5,500 Drexel Burnham employees. What's wrong is that the newspapers never tell us how it's done. One of the top hatchet men in the country is Walter Wiedgrin, who has laid off more than half a million workers in his time.

Wiedgrin, known as "The Hangman," provides 24-hour service to companies that want to push their employees in front of the firing squad. He enjoys his work but pretends he doesn't.

"People blame me if they're laid off, but I can't help it when business is lousy. Look at the Perfect Wave Suntan Oil Company that just hired me to get rid of 10,000 workers."

"Did they have a problem selling suntan oil?"

"On the contrary," Wiedgrin said. "Business was good — so good that they decided to purchase a meatpacking plant, 1,000 VCR stores, a soccer team, a chain of combined carryout banks and pizza parlours, and a factory to make air bags for government bureaucrats. To finance their investments, they borrowed money from insurance companies, credit unions and the Japanese Sushi Employees' Pension Plan."

That takes guts.

"Not if you issue a lot of junk bonds. The problem was that the executives who knew everything about meat, soccer, banks, pizza or air bags. They were very determined, however, and they bought a large airplane to fly from one company to the others so that they could find out why they were losing so much money."

"So far it doesn't sound as if they did anything wrong."

"What they did wrong was that they ran out of cash to pay off their debts. When this happened, the word went out on the street that Perfect Wave was overextended. Everybody was told not to advance the company any more credit. Without supplies it wasn't easy to make suntan oil so, like all good executives, they made a tough business decision to lay off 10,000 heads."

"How can that help?"

"It impresses Wall Street that Perfect Wave means business."

"Why?"

"Because when you're in debt, the best way to show your creditors that you intend to save the company is to fire all the people that work for you. Once we pink-slip the workers, the banks and

insurance companies will be on their knees begging to give us money."

Feel

"When you lay off heads, do the executives feel the blade as well?"

"Hopefully not, and we always make sure that when we fire a top manager, he has a golden parachute. That way he doesn't get hurt when he falls out."

"I remember that they took care of all the executives at Drexel Burnham before the roof caved in."

"Exactly. I was hangman on that case — and the big guys really came out smelling like a rose."

"When you start putting the noose around the necks of the rest of the help, do you do it alphabetically, or by age, or by length of service?"

"We don't have time for that. We throw a bottle of ink over the computer printout, and whoever gets blotted is told not to show up the next day."

"What happens to the plane?"

"The top boys keep it for the new company they're putting together with their manufacturing expertise."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Letters to the editor

Doubting parents

SIR: From time to time, we read in your columns of parental disagreements over the management of large schools in Kuwait but I am pleased to draw your readers' attention to a small school which is presently being run by a newly elected but committed group of parents who are unique in the school's 35-year history.

These ever resourceful people are looking forward with fortitude to the next academic session despite the quite unprecedented departure of the head teacher, deputy head teacher, senior and specialist staff, many to other local schools.

To date, the school does not have a head teacher for next year but if one is eventually found, he or she will be taking instructions from a governing committee which has had to learn about the complexities of school management by direct experience.

Those doubting parents who thought that they could resort to the school's constitution as a means of querying the new committee's actions and consequent professional staff departures should realise that there are times when constitutional and democratic rights are seen as an unnecessary impediment by single-minded people with such supreme confidence in their own judgement.

L. Woudenberg-Trustham,
Sharq.

Speedy drivers

SIR: The Arab Times of May 15 presented a photograph of a terrible accident where the driver of a Honda car and his two companions were killed instantly. The reason for the accident, as per traffic sources, was high speed with loss of control, as usual. This particular reason of terrible road accidents in Kuwait is highly dominant. Statistics would show that more than 80 percent of all road accidents in Kuwait are high-speed related. The Interior Ministry documentary "The Street War" depicted the same.

Now, who are these "high-speed drivers"? Are they licenced? As it is observed, almost all of them fall under the group "young drivers" aged between 16 and 22 or so except few "drivers with uniforms"; more than 75 percent of them being Kuwaitis.

A casual talk with a patrol police revealed that about 10 to 15 percent of them are not licenced. (More accurate figures can be found out from the Traffic Dept.) These high-speed drivers put fellow drivers on instant alert, create chaos, confusion, panic, destroy the very smooth flow of traffic, and make good their escape (most of the time) after victimising innocent fellow drivers.

Standard

One has to accept that streets of Kuwait are one of the best in the world, including its traffic signs and regulations (with exceptions here and there), its driving tests are one of the strictest and of high standard. It has to be taken as granted

irrespective of whether high-speed or low-speed, heavy traffic or light traffic, a driver must be in full control of his/her vehicle under all circumstances.

This is the particular driving ethics most needed at the moment. "Accident occurs accidentally" — can not be allowed in the street.

One has no right to risk one's life and property and those of others.

In view of the above, it is evident that the only effective solution is to force the high-speed driver, to bring down his speed within safe limits. Since "speed limit" signs have little effects on high-speed drivers, the patrol police of the Traffic Dept. has a big role to play. The Interior Ministry can devise a way, a high-speed crusade like "high-speed squad", where the patrol police can practically and effectively nail anyone exceeding speed limits.

These "high-speed squad" members will be found everywhere, round the clock. Soon, there will be no high-speed drivers on the streets. Hopefully, street hazards will dramatically decrease.

Ashrafia Islam,
Khalidiya.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Switzerland

Isolation fear nudged Bern toward EEC

GENEVA, (AP): Switzerland, for centuries an island of peace in troubled Europe, is increasingly haunted by fears of isolation in an emerging supercontinent.

The wealthy country has traditionally regarded itself as a "special case," treasuring its much-valued neutrality and stability that has helped attract capital from all over the world.

But as the newly democratic states of Eastern Europe look toward the 12-nation European Economic Community for economic deals and political co-operation, Swiss leaders do not hide their worries about being left out.

"It would be like being the only one in a school class not invited to join the soccer team," said Franz Blankart, Switzerland's chief negotiator in talks on European integration.

Pressure for full EEC membership is increasing from companies anxious to share the economic benefits promised by the removal of intra-EEC borders at the end of 1992.

At the same time, there are four loud warnings from conservative groups that EEC membership would jeopardise Switzerland's independence and its system of direct democracy under which the people have the final say on all key legislation.

The government says it does not yet want to join the EEC. Instead it is engrossed in complex talks aimed at a far-reaching agreement between the powerful community and the 6-nation European Free Trade Association.

Switzerland, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland are members of the loosely-knit Eta. Austria has already applied for EEC membership, swallowing fears for its neutrality.

The talks are meant to lead to the creation of the European Economic Space, EES, providing for the free movement of goods, people, capital and services among the 15 European countries and creating a market of 350 people.

Of all the Eta members, Switzerland is the most dependent on the EEC for trade. According to government figures, 57 percent of Swiss exports went to EEC countries last year, and 74 percent of Swiss imports came from the EEC.

But the path to an EES agreement is rocky. Swiss demands for exemptions from certain provisions demonstrate the problems that would be set by an application for full Swiss membership of the community.

For example

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Fast-track strategy to expand oil output

LONDON, May 21, (Kuna): Abu Dhabi is adopting a "fast-track" strategy to expand its oil output in line with the expected growth in world demand during the 1990s, a leading oil publication reported today.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW) said that the emirate is aiming for a near 70 per cent hike in oil production to just under 2.5 million bpd by the middle of the decade.

The New York-based weekly, which is widely read here, noted that the main area of expansion is onshore operator Adco's Bab field, which is set to increase its capacity from the current level of 35,000 bpd to 250,000 bpd by 1992.

It added that offshore expansion plans centre on the upper Zakum field, where output is being expanded by around 150,000 bpd to 500,000 bpd by 1992.

Assuming that fellow emirate Dubai's crude capacity is sustained at its current level of 450,000 bpd, the UAE's potential should rise to around 3 million bpd within a few years, the publication concluded.

Meanwhile, in a separate report, the publication predicted that Britain's North Sea oil output is likely to fall well below expectations this year.

It noted that North Sea oil production in general is already around 100,000 bpd short of the hoped-for record of 3.9 million bpd due to a combination of technical setbacks and bad weather.

In addition, a massive safety and maintenance programme is likely to stretch shutdowns in the UK sector well beyond the normal "good-weather window" of May to September, PIW added.

It cited Keith Taylor, managing director of ESSO UK upstream as saying that since the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster, "safety conservatism" has become the watchword among UK producers.

Overall, nearly 140 million barrels could be left in the ground this year as the rebuilding of old structures and work on fire/gas detection systems take their toll, it was pointed out.

The low point is likely to be October, when a 4-6 week closure of the Brent system pipeline will send output crashing to 1.4 million bpd from nearly 1.9 million this April, PIW predicted.

American investors sue Philips

AMSTERDAM, May 21, (Reuter): US investors angered at an unexpected collapse in profits at Dutch electronics group Philips are suing the company, alleging it misinformed them.

NV Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken said in a statement today it was facing a legal challenge from an unspecified number of its American shareholders.

They allege Philips misled them about the state of its business up to May 3 when it reported that net profits before extraordinary gains fell to just six million guilders (\$3.2 million) in the first quarter of 1990 from 223 million guilders (\$119 million) in the same period last year.

Philips said its US lawyers were studying the case and it would give no more information while the matter was pending.

Philips a week ago announced that chairman Cor Vander Klugt would retire a year earlier than expected. He later said he had decided to go to take responsibility for the profit collapse.

Algeria plans to raise salaries

ALGIERS, May 21, (Reuter): Algeria plans to raise the salaries of public sector administrators by 10 per cent from July 1 at a total cost of six billion dinars (\$750 million) annually.

A cabinet meeting on Sunday said the raise would be financed by more efficient tax collection.

A cabinet statement carried by the Algeria news agency APS said the increase had been made possible by successes already won against fiscal fraud, inflation and the black market.

The 1990 budget projects a deficit of 3.5 billion dinars (\$437 million) on spending of 140 billion dinars (\$17.5 billion).

Need for viable Opec oil policy strong as ever

AMSTERDAM, May 21, (Opec): The need for Opec to have a viable oil policy for the current decade remains as strong as ever in order to provide a sound basis for the petroleum industry to develop smoothly, it was stated here this morning.

According to Opec secretary-general Dr Subroto, the organisation would continue to "play its part" in seeking to achieve this goal even though total success could not be guaranteed without the active support of the "other leading performers" in the market.

In an address to the seventh European petroleum and gas conference here, delivered on his behalf by Dr Izyebwa Osayimewa, head of the economics and finance department at the Vienna-based Opec Secretariat, he said the years had shown that instability in the oil market was not one's long-term benefit.

"It is highly damaging to all parties involved, whether they are producers or consumers, to add that offshore expansion plans centre on the upper Zakum field, where output is being expanded by around 150,000 bpd to 500,000 bpd by 1992.

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Parliament met in East Berlin to debate a state treaty merging the economies and social institutions of the East and West German states by July 2. The farm workers planned to rally in East Berlin during the session.

Farmers are demanding protection from West European food imports that are better

Opec or non-Opec, or the international oil companies — no one escapes," he maintained.

Subroto pointed out that Opec was acutely aware of the sensitive nature of the oil market and was seeking to make agreements that were above all else, realistic and possessed reasonable margins to accommodate supply and demand fluctuations.

The organisation's ability to implement its pricing objectives over the years had met with a fair degree of success, he said, despite operating in a market environment characterised by "unpredictability, friction between many competing interests and a tendency to veer away from the long-term fundamentals of supply and demand."

At the present time, he declared, the organisation was being helped by a steadily improving world economy and, with it, rising oil demand which would hopefully help the organisation solve some of its long-standing issues, particularly the

Sound pricing policy vital: Subroto



Dr Subroto

delicate matter of member country production quotas.

He affirmed that due to the fact that oil was a depletable resource, there was a need to let the price of crude reflect its long-term scarcity value which required that the price should grow, preferably at a steady rate, through time.

A steadily rising oil price was also conducive to the efficient utilisation of energy, he said. This had been clearly demonstrated in the 1970s when higher oil prices led to significant improvements in energy efficiency.

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oil market and the possibility of a new ceiling and quota system after studying both demand and supply.

He added that the May production cut was enough to restore balance to the market.

"I am optimistic that oil prices will reach \$18 a barrel in the next few days. I also expect further improvement in the oil market before the July Opec conference," he said.

But he added: "\$18 price is Opec's target and we will not raise it before reaching a reasonable ceiling that will allow any member state to increase production."

Otaiba said demand for oil would reach 24 million bpd in the second half of the year, and between 24.5 million bpd and 25 million bpd in July 1991, predicting that changes in Eastern Europe would further increase the figure.

"The UAE is always committed to Opec accords, especially the May agreement on reducing output," the minister told a press conference at the weekend.

Under the accord, the UAE pledged to cut its production by 200,000 bpd, according to official sources.

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Afghanistan seeks help from IMF and ADB

KABUL, May 21, (Reuters): Afghanistan is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank for help with the massive cost of rebuilding the country now entering its twelfth year of civil war.

"To be honest, all of them said wait and see. Up to now we've had no positive reply," Deputy Prime Minister Sayed Amanuddin Amin, with overall charge of the economy, told Reuters.

Virtually cut off from the world since the war began, Afghanistan has been living off Soviet aid and Amin calculates it will take up to 10 years to reconstruct the economy at a cost between five and 10 the same amount as total military supplies. It would be no problem for them (the countries supplying both sides with weapons to switch to aid) and it would be fruitful for Afghanistan," said the West German-educated former businessman.

He was there just after World War Two. "I saw the rebuilding of Germany was possible ... if needed money and hard work."

But one diplomat warned, "international aid has its bounds and there is increasing competition for the money. The availability of funds does not get better the longer the war drags on."

But Amin has high hopes for the largely farm-based economy, predicting a 12 per cent rise in gross national product in 1990/91 (March 21-March 20) after a drop of 7.1 per cent last year when Soviet troops withdrew.

The forecast is based on hopes of better export performance and greater output of textiles and food.

Amin has also freed some of the country's tough foreign exchange controls by removing the requirement for exporters to sell up to 20 per cent of their earnings to the government at a fixed rate.

This indirect intervention, including making state banks be more free with foreign exchange to companies, has been partly responsible for this week's sharp rise in the afghani to around 550 to the dollar from 700 two weeks earlier, Amin said.

But he would prefer to see less volatile changes on Kabul's money exchange bazaar, a warren of tiny offices next to the river.

"We hope if we get financial aid from the ADB and IMF, we'll be in a position to keep rates stable," he said predicting a rate of 50 afghanis to the dollar once the civil war ends.

Seminar on electric power generation

Caterpillar Overseas S.A. and their Kuwait dealer Messrs. Mohamed Abdulrahman Al Bahar conducted an electric power generation seminar at the Sheraton Hotel on May 15. The seminar was organised to give an exposure of the developments which caterpillar has made recently in the field of power generation.

The electrical specialist from caterpillar, Keaton Heavron briefed on certain special features and ratings of cat 'SR4' generators. He also introduced the electronic modular control panel available from caterpillar.

Chuck Willis, the cat engine representative updated the customers on the cat product range and Bas Sijnsber, cat product support representative stressed on the important aspects of engine, generator set installation.

Earlier, Marwan Zalatimo welcoming the gathering, reassured on Al Bahar's commitment to provide the best product support service to their customers.

Over 160 engineers, consultants and officials from governmental departments and private sector companies attended the seminar.

Seoul likely to hire foreign pilots

SEOUL, South Korea, May 21, (AP): South Korea is running out of pilots for the nation's two commercial airlines and may have to hire foreigners, the Transportation Ministry said today.

The ministry said Korean Air and Asiana Airlines will need 1,700 pilots in the next 10 years, at least 600 more than the airlines are scheduled to train in that period.

Plans to combat the pilot shortage include hiring foreign pilots, training Korean pilots overseas, setting a pilot quota for each airline and stopping the two airlines from hiring pilots away from each other, a ministry official said.

The ministry said it also will seek to revise the aviation law to strengthen regulations on the recruitment of pilots, improve working conditions and establish a state-run institute for training pilots.

US-Soviet trade ties momentum-snagging

WASHINGTON, May 21, (Reuters): Promising trends in US-Soviet trade are snagging on Moscow's crackdown against the Baltic independence movement and its failure to ease emigration for Jews and other minorities.

Some US government and private trade officials said that these hitches may be so serious they could thwart the signing of important economic treaties at next week's summit between presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The biggest prize is a trade treaty, which would grant Moscow coveted

"most-favoured-nation" (MFN) tariff treatment. New posts on grain and shipping are also involved.

"We are working at it, but it is up to the president to determine if they should be signed," said an official at the US trade representative's office.

Bush has expressed unhappiness at Moscow's hardline reaction to independence drives in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, saying, "it has put some tension on the summit."

But he has confined himself so far to appealing for a negotiated settlement and refrained from imposing any sanctions on Moscow.

The Soviet Union has also failed to live up to Bush administration expectations it would pass a new emigration law permitting its citizens to leave the country freely.

The United States demands such a liberalisation as a precondition for waiving current US restrictions on trade.

The Soviet parliament was expected to pass the law on May 22 but has postponed action until May 31—the day the summit begins, a State Department official said.

"There are some rocky roads ahead on trade," said Margaret Chapman,

director of the US-USSR trade programme at the private American committee on US-Soviet trade.

"Regardless of the situation in Lithuania, the president must go ahead, sign a trade agreement and grant most-favoured-nation status to the Soviet Union to level the playing field with our opposition—the Europeans and the Japanese," Chapman said.

She says both the United States and the Soviet Union need better trade ties with each other.

Official estimates valued 1989 US exports to the Soviet Union at \$4.3 billion. Imports from Moscow were

\$700 million.

The bilateral trade agreement would pave the way for Moscow to acquire MFN trade status, which would grant them the lowest US tariff applied to any nation on most products.

It would also allow Soviet borrowing from US banks and provide some protection for Americans investing in the Soviet Union.

Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said he hoped the grain pact would be signed at the summit, but added:

"Lithuania has had a general effect on all the planning in the US-Soviet area. It has simply affected the timing."

The grain pact would ensure that the Soviet Union, whose main imports are US food items, buys at least 10 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds worth billions of dollars to American farmers for five years starting next year.

American businessmen want in economic pacts signed at the summit to create a framework for rapid trade expansion.

The chamber believes the Soviets have satisfied emigration requirements and trade relations should not be used as a weapon," said Willard Wormsby, an official of the US Chamber of Commerce, a private business organisation.

China's austerity out

Reforms in

BEIJING, May 21, (Reuters): China has ended a 20-month austerity programme and is willing to risk inflation as it rebuilds its battered industries, a senior Chinese economist said today.

Lu Younghua, a division chief at the state commission for restructuring the economy, also told Reuters some key market-oriented reforms neglected after last year's military crackdown will be resumed.

"We can say our policy of tightening credit has already come to a fullstop," said Lu, who works directly under Premier Li Peng in one of China's most powerful economic think-tanks.

Western diplomats said Lu's comments were a sign orthodox Marxist economic doctrines were losing pre-eminence and that free-market ideas were cautiously emerging.

Since Premier Li launched the

austerity in late 1988, it has succeeded in dragging down inflation from a nation-wide average of 18 per cent in 1989 to 4.6 per cent in April this year.

But it has also caused slack market demand, an industrial slump, falling labour productivity and has cost the government heavily in subsidies to insolvent state-run firms and payments to swelling ranks of unemployed.

"The next phase in our development is to solve the problems caused by the austerity programme," said Lu in an interview. He is currently mapping out China's next five-year economic plan from 1991 to 1996.

Reflation has already begun, he said. The country's top four banks lent 25 billion yuan (\$5.3 billion) to industry in the first quarter of this year.

Consumer demand will be stimulated by low interest rates, and extra loans will be granted to major companies currently hobbled by debts, Lu said.

Privately-owned rural enterprises—the powerhouse of China's economy before about 20 per cent or some 800,000 went out of business last year—are also to be encouraged, he added.

He predicted that with these measures, China should be able to attain a five per cent increase in industrial output value this year compared with last. The state's target is around six per cent.

"Inflation will probably increase but I think we will be able to keep it under 10 per cent for the year," said Lu.

Foreign investors and bankers have remained cautious over China in recent months because of misgivings on the strength of the economy and the neglect of free-market reforms.

Public issue planned

IPC shares surge

THE price of International Petroleum Corporation shares has risen 20 per cent in the past month on news that the company is gearing up for a public share issue.

The shares, which last month were trading at just over Cdn\$2.50, are now trading at Cdn\$2.50. In the first half of this month, an average of 15,000 IPC shares were being traded each day.

IPC, which operates several oil and gas concessions in the Middle East and the Gulf, including the Buksa field offshore Oman, is awaiting final approval of its planned issue from the Canadian Securities Commission.

The issue has created substantial interest in the Middle East. Requests for more information are being processed daily at the company's technical headquarters in Dubai.

The scale of the interest being shown by potential Gulf investors has been so great that we have decided to launch a roadshow at which the company

will present its plans to an invited audience in four different venues," explained vice-president, Ian H. Lundin.

The roadshow began in Dubai on Sunday and continues over the next three nights in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Kuwait.

The share issue launch is aimed at raising Cdn\$30 million in capital to partly finance seismic and drilling programmes in Ras Al Khaimah, Libya, Malaysia and Vietnam. It will involve a maximum of five million units and is to go ahead in the first week of next month. It will close one month later.

Each unit will consist of one common share and one warrant to purchase one common share. The issue price has been set at Cdn\$30.

IPC is a publicly traded company with listings on the Australian Stock Exchange (Sydney), the Vancouver Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange. It is also traded on the International Exchange in London.



New coin denominated in ECUs

Patrice Cahart, director of the Paris mint, presents a giant model of France's new coin denominated in ECUs (European Currency Units). The 70 Ecus coins, which bear the head of ninth century emperor Charlemagne, are legal tender in France, where they are worth 500 francs (Reuters wirephoto)

Warsaw appeals for end to railway strike

WARSAW, Poland, May 21, (AP): Government and Solidarity officials appealed to railway workers in northwestern Poland today to end a strike, saying that meeting their pay demands would sabotage the nation's economic reform programme.

A meeting of the strike committee and the railway management in Warsaw ended Saturday without result, PAP said.

Workers appealed to Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to send a representative to Slupsk for talks.

"We assure you that we are not trying to slow down reforms," a representative, Zbigniew Smykow, told Polish radio. "We went too far to stop now. We want our enterprise reformed and that's what we are fighting for first of all."

Sticking steadfastly to its economic reform plan to control inflation, Mazowiecki's Solidarity-dominated government rejected pay or benefit increases that cannot be supported by the budgets of the enterprises or the governments.

The government response from the press office, as well as the extensive discussion of the strike in the media, indicated that the government is treating it as a serious challenge to the reform programme.

The drive to create a market-driven economic system has also cut off most subsidies to state-run enterprises in an effort to force them into self-sufficiency. This has created a drastic situation for organisations such as the railway, that has charged unrealistically low fares. For instance, the three-hour trip from Warsaw to Gdansk can cost less than the taxi ride to the station.

The ministry said it also will seek to revise the aviation law to strengthen regulations on the recruitment of pilots, improve working conditions and establish a state-run institute for training pilots.

The Soviet Union has also failed to live up to Bush administration expectations it would pass a new emigration law permitting its citizens to leave the country freely.

The United States demands such a liberalisation as a precondition for waiving current US restrictions on trade.

The Soviet parliament was expected to pass the law on May 22 but has postponed action until May 31—the day the summit begins, a State Department official said.

"There are some rocky roads ahead on trade," said Margaret Chapman,

\$700 million.

The bilateral trade agreement would pave the way for Moscow to acquire MFN trade status, which would grant them the lowest US tariff applied to any nation on most products.

It would also allow Soviet borrowing from US banks and provide some protection for Americans investing in the Soviet Union.

The grain pact would ensure that the Soviet Union, whose main imports are US food items, buys at least 10 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds worth billions of dollars to American farmers for five years starting next year.

American businessmen want in economic pacts signed at the summit to create a framework for rapid trade expansion.

The chamber believes the Soviets have satisfied emigration requirements and trade relations should not be used as a weapon," said Willard Wormsby, an official of the US Chamber of Commerce, a private business organisation.

Jobless rate is rising fast

Poland's reforms raise cheers abroad

WARSAW, May 21, (Reuters): Poland's sprint towards economic reform, applauded in the West, is encountering doubts and even outright criticism closer to home.

Michel Camdessus, head of the International Monetary Fund, said early in May Polish-style economic shock therapy seemed the most direct and effective road to reform in Eastern Europe.

Not a week passes without visiting politicians or trade missions praising Poland in its drive to break with four decades of communism and embrace the Western-style free market.

But after nearly five months of austerity, the country is in a deep recession, life for ordinary people is hard and virtually nobody expects things to get better quickly.

"I increasingly believe that one can't satisfy people both inside and outside the country," said Andrzej Wroblewski, editor of the financial newspaper Gazeta Bankowa.

"Either you have good reviews from the IMF and the international and political community but you are almost hated at home. Or you bring relief to Polish families and you are rightly criticised by the international financiers."

Real wages have been slashed, industrial

production has plunged by 30 per cent, unemployment is rising fast and inflation, though tame, is not yet over.

"Real pay has fallen by 40 per cent, the civilised world has never seen such economic recession," said professor Jozef Kaleda, a member of the government's advisory economic council.

"Inefficient enterprises do not go bankrupt, while the condition of advanced and efficient ones is worsening," he added in an interview with the weekly Panorama.

Other analysts, while kind to the government, also question whether companies are doing enough to streamline their business and make their products more attractive.

"Very few companies and very few managers are aggressive enough and can promptly find new production, new markets, new marketing techniques," Wroblewski said.

"The reaction of enterprises is to restrict production. They don't struggle for lower costs, they don't struggle for the market. They sell what they can sell easily and decrease their activity," said Leszek Zienkowski, another independent economic adviser to the government.

Analysts say enterprises have been too

hesitant so far to sack workers—partly because unemployment, officially non-existent under communism, is still new and feared.

"To fire people is the last thing they would do... they delay the moment of truth because that a miracle will come," Wroblewski said.

Despite that, unemployment is already nudging 400,000 or almost three per cent of the work force.

Thousands of jobless school-leavers will swell the total next month, and an expected wave of bankruptcies later this year will put it higher still.

Political pressure is mounting. Farmers demanding government intervention to buy food they cannot sell, Gdansk shipyard workers have staged sporadic walkouts, an Solidarity leader Lech Walesa is increasingly critical of the government led by his own close associates.

Economic analysts say the government may be tempted to relax austerity slightly, perhaps by giving factories more leeway to increase workers' wages without incurring punitive taxes.

But that could be risky, Zienkowski said. On the one hand it

EVENTS



Sheikha Nashmiya (right) with Leila Mukhaimer after the opening; in the background is the replica of works done by Lebanese artist Farouq.



Bedouin lifestyle on fabric.

Splendid tapestry



Above and below: Two samples of tapestry on show.

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

A SPLENDID collection of tapestry featuring Arab patterns went on show at the House of Art exhibition, which was opened on Saturday by Sheikha Nashmiya Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Exquisite pure wool, hand tufted tapestry from Yugoslavia collected by Leila Barakat Mukhaimer, managing director of The House of Art.

Scenes of Arab and European lifestyle in bright colours have been cleverly tufted on fabric. Some of the best designs depict scenes from the lives of Arabs and Europeans. An eye-catching design showed bedouin lifestyle — tents and camels. Some ancient ruins leapt to life on tapestry featuring scenes from some Arab countries like Egypt and Lebanon. The replica of works by Lebanese artist Farouq depicting the courtyard with a fountain in an Arabic-style house was also appealing.

Leila, who worked for months to put together the collection, is an artist and designer. One of her designs, an exquisite gray and white tapestry captured an oyster shell. She also designed some of the other works that were on display.

Tapestry cost ranged between KD 80 and KD 600. The House of Art is located in Jabiya.



Above and below: Two samples of tapestry on show.

'Ice Capades': romancing the ice

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

WHEN Kuwait sizzles in June, a group of Americans will dance away the heat at Kuwait's Ice Skating Rink with a spectacular display of skills, judging from ice skater Bobby Beauchamp's agility demonstrated at a press preview yesterday.

Bobby, who belongs to the Ice Capades company, is in Kuwait to launch the Festival of Ice, which has been scheduled from June 18 to 24.

The all-American Ice Capades group this year celebrated their fiftieth anniversary of "family entertainment" in the US. The group, which has travelled all over Europe and some countries in the Far East, will be performing for the first time in the Gulf.

The group's romance with ice began on Feb 14, 1940 in Hershey, Pa. Nineteen days after the group was formed, it hit the road and has been growing by the day. So far, they have performed in 296 places across the globe.

Some of the world's best ice skaters have been a part of the show at some time during its 50-year history. The most recent stars were the British champion skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. Over a 100 champion skaters including Richard Button, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, Ludmila and Oleg Protopopov, Scott Hamilton, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner have skated with the group.

The show, billed as "family entertainment" promises everything from "Barbie Doll Live" and Mario Bros. from the world of Nintendo.

Luigi and Mario — to the difficult art of pair Adagio skating.

Bobby, who has won several medals for his skills, glides on ice. A natural dancer, Bobby says he feels "at home on ice."

"It's a great feeling. I love the speed, the athletics and the combination of sport and fun," he said.

A resident of Los Angeles, Bobby stumbled into ice skating at the age of nine. "A doctor advised me to try skating to strengthen my legs," he said. It worked. And he skated into the profession, first participating in amateur competitions and then making a career of it.

Bobby's unusual career has taken him to ice rinks around the world, including all parts of the US, Canada, Austria, Japan, Germany, Holland, Czechoslovakia, China and UK.

Bobby is known for his vigorous style and the lyricism of skating. He believes this is due to arduous practice, his love of dance — modern, jazz, ballet — and training. He trained under the gifted American coach John Nicks.

If he had not been a skater, Bobby says he would have been a dancer.

At the moment, he flashes the blades of his skates in Ice Capades.

The Ice Capades shows in Kuwait have been sponsored by five leading Kuwaiti companies. Reservations are now open and tickets are available from Kuwait International Hotel, Kids 'n' Us and Ice Skating Rink. Special discounts will be given to the handicapped.

Complimentary tickets and a certificate will be given to students who obtain the best test scores and the top four students at each school. The competition is open to students of all schools in Kuwait.

Some of the sponsors pictured with Bobby.



Some of the sponsors pictured with Bobby.



Bobby Beauchamp on ice.



Mario Bros in action.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.30 Opening: Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoons
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Educational programme
12.30 News in brief and close-down

Evening

4.00 Opening: Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)

4.30 Cartoons

5.00 Weekly programme: World of Tomorrow

6.00 Daily Arabic serial

7.00 Songs

7.25 Cultural programme

8.30 Good Evening

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Daily Arabic serial

10.30 Weekly Arabic serial: Al Nas Wa Al Furqa

12.15 News in Brief

12.20 World Today via Satellite and close-down



Candice Bergen plays Murphy Brown.
7.30 Kate and Allie: "Bob Smells the Roses". Tonight, Bob looks at life differently after his friend suffers a heart attack.

8.00 News in English

8.30 You and the Law: examines local laws

8.50 Bordertown: weekly serial

9.15 Horizon: "A Good Test." Psychological testing of volunteers in the British Naval Force.

10.00 Murphy Brown: Murphy is prevented from appearing on a show. Comedy. Starring: Candice Bergen.

10.30 Wolf: "Curtains of Silence". Blackmail is the theme of tonight's case taken by private eye Tony.

11.30 News in Brief

11.40 Magazine d'Actualite/ Close-down

KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Voltron: cartoon serial

6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: focus on why students don't do homework.

7.00 The Holy Quran and Science. "Creation of Man" examines scientific advances and their references in the Holy Quran

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Abhau (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouq Fishawi
Al Salimiyah
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Hamra
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)
Starring: Mustafa Mutwali, Salah Qabil, Nabila Obaid
Drive-In
Hanafi Al Abhau (Arabic)
Starring: Farouq Fishawi, Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi
Al Firdous
Commando (Hindi)
Starring: Mandakini, Mithun Chakraborty
Fahadeel Open-Air
Waqt Ki Awaz (Hindi)

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.21 am
Zuhra 11.45
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.37
Isha 8.06

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushahri Gallery
A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salimiyah Bldg, Salimiyah Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafer Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi, and Saleh Jame'e are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm, 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

THEATRE

IAC One-Act Play Contest
MAY 23: Funkar Arts presents Hindi play Ek Musafir Khoya Hua; Telugu Kala Samir presents Kallu (Eyes).

May 24: Samarpun Teen Bundar, Gujarati; Bhatia Mirali Mandal present Kissi Bubul Ki Jangon Ka, Hindi; Kuwait Dramatic Society present Malayalam play Akkatham.

May 30: Madhu and Friends present Krishnava Narani; Malayalam; Stage Index performs Shanti Parvam, Malayalam.

May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's Maarrich Songhaad; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform Chanteeran and His Clan; Malayalam. Nathya Bharati present Kafan (Shroud); Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

All performances at IAC, Funaitas: 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Classical Music Evening
MAY 22: 7.30 pm at Kuwait Towers. Kuwait Cine Club holds a musical evening featuring the works of Johann Strauss. The programme includes waltzes like "The Blue Danube," The Emperor's Waltz and Voices of Spring. Walz by soprano Cathleen Battle, such polkas as "Pizzicato Polka," Thunder and Lightning. The evening concludes with the Radetzky March of the

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Abdul Rahman Nassar compères the show.

SOCIAL

Kalpk

MAY 25: The Kerala Art and Literature Association will celebrate its first anniversary at Indian Embassy Hall, 5 pm. Variety show follows. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salimiyah, 22024, Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

COMPETITIONS

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Building a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salimiyah, 22024, Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

ENTERTAINMENT

At the Meridien

La Brasserie Restaurant Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.

Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialties.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

At the Messilah Beach

Al Mubarakiyah: open Around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Bordertown: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the SAS

Bistro: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.

Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezze buffet.

Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday.

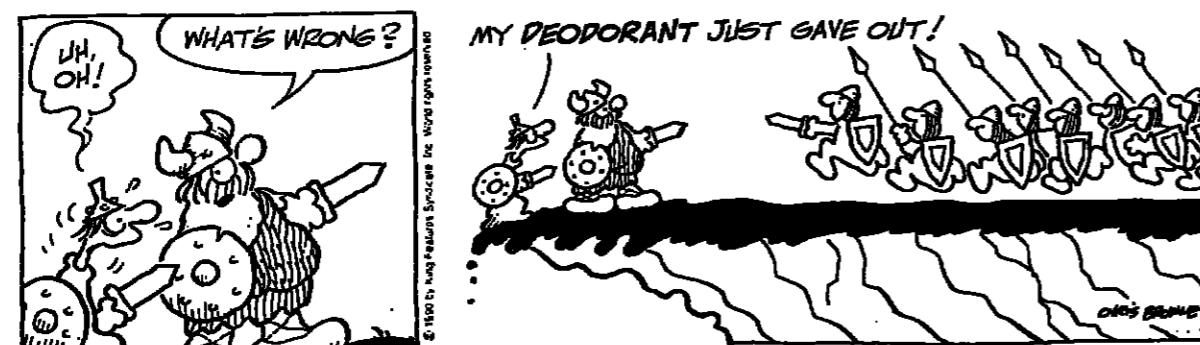
Arabic band entertains guests.

Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



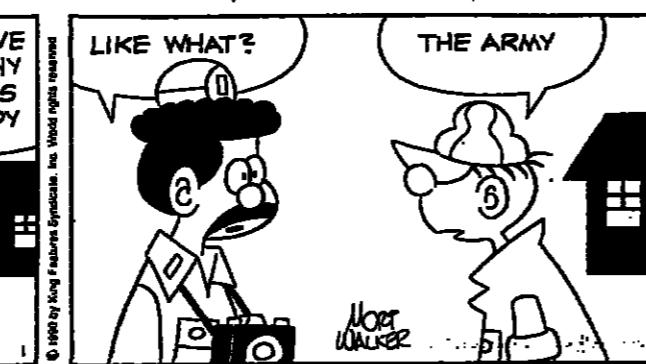
MAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



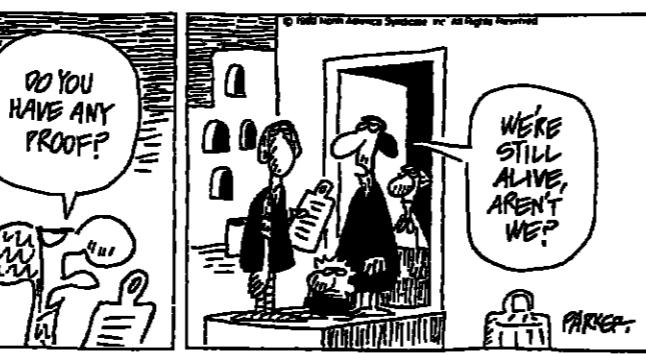
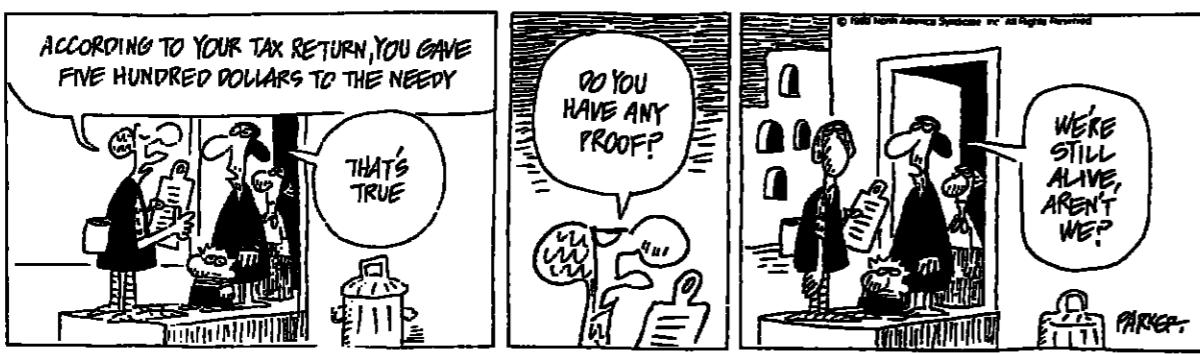
MARTHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEEFLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Frank Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



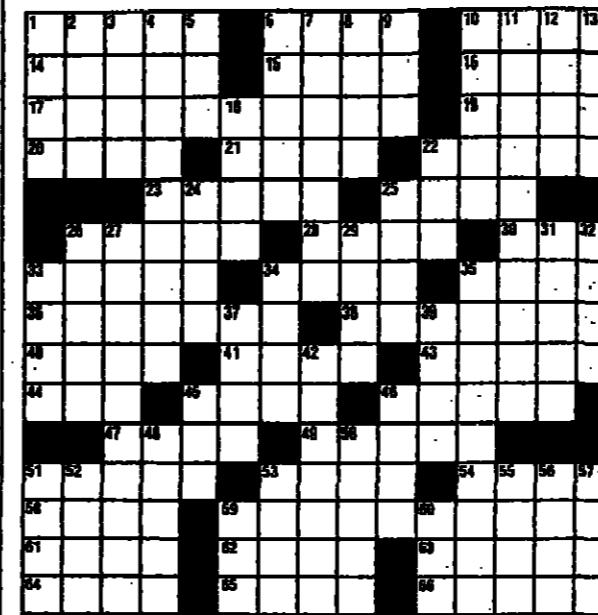
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Wide open
- 5 College org.
- 10 Related
- 14 Clayey
- 15 Chorister's goal
- 16 Feast
- 17 Mom's helper
- 19 Bright thought
- 20 "Madam, I'm —"
- 21 Cajole
- 22 Passover meal
- 23 Skittish
- 25 Small case
- 26 Greets the day
- 28 " — does it!"
- 30 Self
- 33 Five: Comb. form
- 34 Work on books
- 35 Harbor craft
- 36 Affronts
- 38 State
- 40 Bring up
- 41 Employs
- 43 Listens
- 44 Sea bird
- 45 Cad
- 46 Wandering one: Var.
- 47 Galt
- 49 Mennonite
- 51 Felt sore
- 53 Aviation acronym
- 54 Copied
- 55 In a moment
- 59 Tag, e.g.
- 61 Whistle
- 62 Cheer for the team
- 63 Swiftly
- 64 Auto pioneer
- 65 Urges
- 66 Sacred narratives

DOWN

- 1 Israel's Eban
- 2 Egg on
- 3 Goya's duchess
- 4 Financial officer
- 5 Hesitant sounds
- 6 Lame opening
- 7 Revolved
- 8 "Roots" author Haley
- 9 Craggy peak
- 10 Sayonara, in Sedan
- 11 Transports for the nursery school set
- 12 Arrow poison
- 13 Close
- 18 Summer treats
- 22 Porker's home
- 24 Campus figure
- 25 Italian noble family
- 26 Allude to
- 27 Baby days
- 28 Assists
- 31 Smith's — Park
- 32 Is in debt
- 33 Skin opening
- 34 Latin being
- 35 Cheerfully irresponsible
- 37 Twosome
- 39 Greek letters
- 42 Joy
- 45 Brick holder
- 46 Coat with gold leaf
- 48 Leases
- 50 Sheds, as feathers
- 51 Concerning
- 52 Chiff
- 53 Comic character
- 55 Land map
- 56 Per person
- 57 Tints
- 59 Weep
- 60 Donaldson or Waterson

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

GALL	FETE	CEE
AXIOM	ANIL	CHAW
GOOSEBUMPS	HIVE	
ANN	TARAS	PACER
	RAKES	BANK
	MODULE	SAUNTERS
	OPUS	MERLE
	RACEWAY	NIP
	ILK	ALL DONE
	ACRID	OUST
	ASWANDAM	SMITES
	ALEC	MILLAN
	VALID	SEÑOR
	ELKE	TIE
	TURKEY	TROT
	AMEN	ERSE
	LAUD	SAUNA
	NEED	PEAL

TOMORROW'S STARS



You will have plenty to do but if you keep calm you will be able to get done what needs to be done. Avoid exaggerations in all directions. Do not rely on good luck, if you have some treat it as a bonus. Be sincere.



Something about which you have not been so sure will now become definite. Indeed you will be able to confirm that you have been and still are on the right track. Do not exaggerate negative considerations. Be reliable.



You will discover how to remedy something you have been doing wrong and this will be a great boost to you. You will tend to be a little over-confident and should take steps to compensate for it. Avoid getting into an argument about trivialities. Be a little more patient.



Avoid believing all you hear but there is no reason to be too sceptical. Instead of blaming and criticizing others you should examine your own behaviour. You will have to cut down on expenditure but do not skip on maintenance and repairs. Be hopeful.



You will be able to make progress with a project important to you, but only if you work hard. You are all too liable to allow yourself to be sidetracked, restrain. Make sure your diet contains enough vitamins, but do not become a fat about it. Be polite.



You will find a new way of doing something you have been doing already. Get moving now, faster. You should keep your wits about you and not believe that what you would like to be is. Make sure you do not do anything bad for your health. Be tactful.



You should try to avoid being jealous of others, instead think of how much better off than you are. A friend whom you have been helping will show his gratitude. What seemed at first like a good idea will turn out not to be. Be punctual.



You are too liable to allow yourself to be distracted. Seek to counter the tendency and try harder to concentrate. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 32. Adapt to instead of fighting against the inevitable. Be consistent.



You will have plenty to do but you should not live a life that is all work and no leisure. Take a little time off to enjoy yourself but do not overdo either work or play. Make sure you do not let your friends down. Be magnanimous.



You should not give too much prominence to a relatively secondary matter. An offer or proposal must be considered from all angles. It is not what it seems at first. Do all you can to avoid creating confusion. Be moderate.



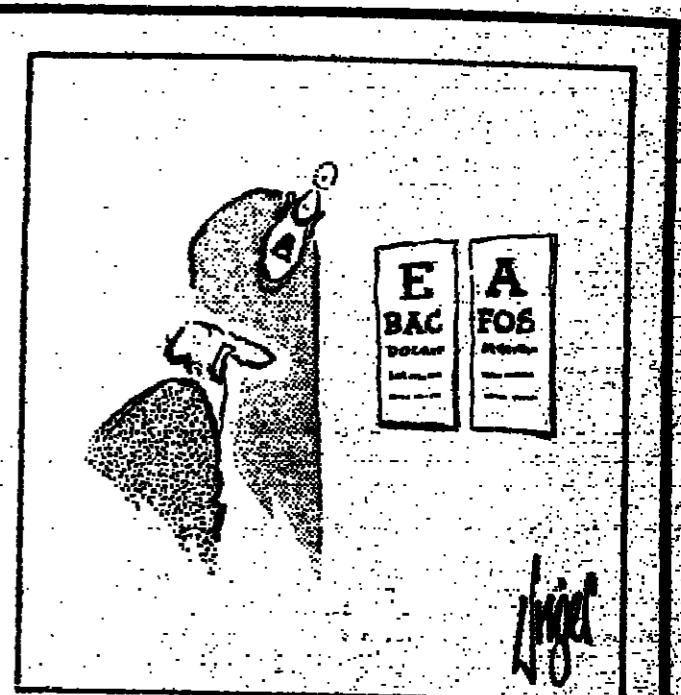
You should expect more from yourself, less from others. Something that had been going wrong for some time will now no longer do so. You are rather given to exaggeration and should restrain yourself. Be frank.



You will be able to do something that pleases you, but do not neglect what has to be done. Avoid getting into an argument. Do not believe all you hear, but do not be too disbelieving either. Be reasonable.



"If I had to guess, I'd say a very large horsefly."



"You want to test both eyes, don't you?"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIE

WINNING DEFENSE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 6 4

♦ A K 10 6

♦ 8 5 4

♦ K 6 5

EAST

♦ J 3 2

♦ A K 8 5

♦ 7 3

♦ 9 6 3

♦ A Q 10 9 8 7 3 4 2

SOUTH

♦ Q 8 7

♦ A K Q J 7 2

♦ 3

WEST

♦ 10 9 7

♦ 5 4

♦ 4 2

♦ Dbl

♦ 5

♦ Pass

♦ Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♦

It is surprising how difficult it can be for the defenders to collect the tricks that are their due. Consider this hand from the open pair event at the recent Spring North American Championships in Fort Worth, Texas, where East's failure to help on defense cost a bushel of matchpoints.

Sitting South was Gail Greenberg, an oft-time world women's champion and a formidable com-

petitor under any circumstances. Since the bidding had marked North with limited length and strength in the minor suits, South bid her better three-card major holding in the hope of locating a 4-3 fit. When she did, she was prepared to play the hand in that strain, had not East gone into the act with a double. South decided that East probably was right, so she ran to five diamonds, and East doubled again, though on less sure ground this time.

West led the ace of clubs. When three clubs to the king appeared in dummy, it was a moral certainty that there would be no further club trick for the defense, so East should have dropped the jack of clubs to ask for a switch to the higher-ranking side suit, i.e., spades. At the table, East followed routinely with the deuce and, with nothing to guide him, West chose to shift to the singleton heart. Declarer needed no more.

She took the heart in hand with the queen, cashed all her diamonds, discarding a club and two spades from the table. Declarer crossed to the king of hearts to cash the king of clubs, forcing East down to the ace of spades and two hearts. East was then thrown in with a spade, and forced to lead away from the jack of hearts into the board's tenace, making five-odd, doubled.



The Yetties (from left): Bonny Sartin, Roger Trim, Mac McCulloch and Pete Shutter.

Matisse — expressions through light

After you have dazzled your eyes with the sunshot colours of the 'Matisse in Morocco' paintings, his drawings come as a quiet interlude in the shade, offering fascinating insights into his Moroccan trips and Matisse-the-painter.

will be on view at all four museums.

As soon as you step through the Matisse rain in his room at the Hotel Villa de France, became depressed and decided to leave. But the tempestuous weather began to calm down, and by March 1 Matisse had begun to paint in the mellow, soft Moroccan light he would rave about in his letters. And he had taken another giant step in a career that made him, together with Picasso, one of the great painters of the first half of the 20th century.

Four years after Morocco, in December 1917, Matisse turned his back on his family and art in Paris to strike out toward a new phase of his work, in the silvery light of Nice. When he arrived, the rain sluiced down for a month. He painted a self-portrait that included a large umbrella in a jar.

Just when he'd decided to leave Nice, the next day the rain stopped. He stayed on, and in five months began the series of paintings that signalled a remarkable new stage, what Dominique Fourcade, the curator of the National Gallery's 1986 "Matisse in Nice" show called "expression through light."

Henri Matisse's obsession with light shines through in the dazzling brilliance of "Matisse in Morocco," the small but significant exhibition that opened last month at the National Gallery of Art. It will shimmer through June 3 here before travelling to New York and the USSR.

"Matisse in Morocco: The Paintings and Drawings, 1912-13" is billed as a "USA/USSR joint project," the first time an exhibition has been worked out in all phases jointly by Western and Soviet curators. It was organized by the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow, and the State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad. It

will be on view at all four museums. The show also includes sleuthing by the show's curators and organizers — Jack Cowart, 20th-century-art curator of the National Gallery, and Matisse authority Pierre Schneider of Paris — which has turned up dozens more drawings, bringing the total from 12 previously known to 70.

Schneider points out in the catalog, "Every step forward in Matisse's painting took place in a specific corner of the world" and that he "became an Impressionist in Brittany... a Fauve in Collioure."

In Russia in the fall of 1911, the icons, triptychs, and post-Byzantine art with its human figures inspired him and affected his later work. As Schneider explains, "Matisse did not travel to see places, but to see light, to restore through a change of its quality, the freshness it had lost."

All three are on loan from the Pushkin Museum. These triptychs have never been seen before in the United States and are among the most important paintings in the show. They are hung exactly as Matisse stipulated.

So the singing blues and greens, the opalescent violets, and the pungent pinks that Matisse later added to unite the paintings as a triptych for Morosov — all those glorious colours can be seen together in one panoramic glance from across the room.

Individually, they take your breath away with their beautiful, pulsing colour and the bold simplicity of their design.

This is the first time since 1913, when Matisse himself exhibited his Morocco paintings in Paris, that they have been shown. But as participating curator John Elderfield of the Museum of Modern Art points out, this show contains more than Matisse's did — all but two of his paintings.

The contrast between the two trips can be seen when you compare the tawny golds and oranges of the nearly abstract "Open Window at Tangier" with the same scene, the blue-and-green-steeped view from the first trip, "Landscape Viewed from a Window" shown here.

Matisse, in love with triptychs after

Russia, did a floral trio known as the Moroccan Garden Triptych, which included his explosions of colour in "The Palm," "Acanthus," and "Periwinkle." A third triptych, never before on display together, is a series of three Moroccans in vivid native costumes, full-length portraits of "Amido," "Zorah Standing" (both from the Hermitage), as well as "Fatma, the Mulatto Woman."

All had been bought by Sergei Shchukin, the other important Russian patron, whose collections, along with Morosov's, have made the Hermitage and Pushkin museums so rich in Matisse. Shchukin and Morosov together acquired more than half of Matisse's Moroccan paintings.

After you have dazzled your eyes with the sunshot colours of the "Matisse in Morocco" paintings, his drawings come as a quiet interlude in the shade. They offer fascinating insights into his Moroccan trips and Matisse the painter. In "H. Matisse by Himself," we see the artist merrily sketching a marabout, or doomed Moroccan tomb; eyes drawn on the tails of his coat echo those of a veiled Moroccan woman at his left.

The National Gallery's Jack Cowart, who both worked on the Matisse "Cut-Out" show (of his late art of scissored paper) and was co-curator for the "Matisse in Nice" show, stands in a meadow of Matisse's and explains: "Where the 'Cut-Outs'... and Nice... began was in Morocco. And they are consistent in the sense of the search for illumination, the sense for Islamic patterning, the sense for the exotic, the sense for the lush beauty of colour. They punctuate three major areas of his work, almost all in the same key, and it becomes increasingly expansive."

Schneider, taking time out to talk between takes of a French TV interview, says Matisse went to Morocco to, in his words, "effect the necessary transition" — going back to nature without betraying his past abstract art.

"Because the abstraction is in nature itself — the light is so profound, so strong — it leaves nothing but the soul of colour, you might say. The light floats in front; it is more immaterial. So in a sense Morocco did that for (Matisse)."



'Landscape Viewed From A Window' is a painting by Henri Matisse, part of his Moroccan Triptych.



Bungee jumper Nick Abercrombie takes the plunge from the Ohakune railway bridge in the central North Island, New Zealand. Bungee jumping is a new sport where people jump from bridges — or hot air balloons — for the rush of adrenalin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lifestyle

Bungee jumpers get 'big air' thrills

By Carrick Leavitt

TRACY, California, (UPI): Jumping from a hot air balloon 150 feet (50m) in the sky with an elastic cord attached to a harness around your middle is an unforgettable adrenaline rush.

The world's first commercial hot air balloon bungee jumpers, some 60 thrill seekers who recently gathered in a northern California cow pasture, say the same. They came from cities across the country to pay the Palo Alto-based Bungee Adventure Company \$99 for one jump and a video record of the feat.

Todd Newton, 21, a Richmond, California, security guard, became the first record paying customer to make a bungee jump from a hot air balloon at daybreak on May 5.

"Are you scared?" ground supporters called up to him while the green, yellow, black, red and orange balloon ascended. "Yeah," he said.

The group on the ground began chanting, "5, 4, 3, 2, 1."

"Yeeehaa," he screamed, dangling triumphantly from the cord seconds later. "I'm a born bungee baby."

"We've got a satisfied yo-yo," said a beaming John Kockelman, 30, who found Bungee Adventure along with his brother,

Pete, 32.

After the lunge earthward, the jumper is lowered to the ground.

The Kockelman leaders among pioneer bungee jumpers, got into the sport in October 1987, doing it for fun in the beginning from bridges, buildings, giant cranes and redwood trees.

Bungee jumping shot spots also can be found in Australia, where a group has conducted some 23,000 jumps of bridges and in France, where two thrill seekers fell to their deaths last year.

The Kockelman went commercial in May 1988 and have supervised over 9,000 bungee jumps off bridges.

"We were looking for a better platform when we hit upon the idea of jumping from a hot air balloon," John said.

Pete obtained a pilot's licence and the brothers invested in a \$20,000 balloon, then added another \$10,000 in special reinforcing safety features needed for bungee jumping.

"No one else in the entire world is going hot air balloon bungee jumping commercially," John says.

With very little advertising, the Kockelman's balloon is already booked into July.

What does it feel like to leap from a hot air balloon?

My jump, known as "The Flight of the Pudgy Eagle," found some answers.

I can report that first comes terror — during that finite moment as every nerve in your body screams, "Don't do this."

Seconds after the inexorable plunge toward hostile earth, terror gives way to the giggles as the jumper hits the end of his 43-foot-long (13m) bungee cord and it stretches, slowing that awful fall and doubling to 86 feet (26m) in length.

Next comes a whacking great rebound boing-g-g-g, and another, boing-g-g-g high above terra firma.

The giggles are nearly unstoppable as you bob up and down like a human yo-yo.

Brad Buller, 26, a carpenter from Santa Cruz, knows.

"I'm sick. No way I am doing this," he said.

But moments later Buller was in the specially reinforced balloon basket.

"Think ground rush, Brad," called out pilot Peter Kockelman — and Buller takes the plunge.

"Total helplessness," he said. "Wow, I want to go again. Oh yeah, yeah, major acceleration. This is so hot."

Cedric Mallinckrodt, 26, a Los Altos research engineer, eyes an arm-frailing leaper and muttered, "That's sincerely stupid. Great. I mean that's my style. I'm

next."

Dawn Mikkelsen, 33, a marriage and family counsellor from San Jose became the first woman commercial bungee jumper from a hot air balloon.

"It was scary at first," she said. "I had trouble getting a good solid breath and then I was just bouncing off — it was so

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Children join in Hyderabadi fun



A FANCY dress competition took place last week at the Messilah Family Beach. More than 20 children participated in the contest, organised by the Hyderabad Deccan 400th Year Celebration Committee. All the costumes were based on typical Hyderabadi characters ranging from brides to rickshaw pullers and faqirs to flower sellers. Among those taking part were Mir Amjad Ali Khan Sada S. Saleem, Zara S., Nausheen Sadeq, Mohammad Jaun Rizvi, Husna Shahnoor, Mohammad Ali Hussain, Mahreen Sadeq, Aisha Shahwar, Shivehaz Khan, Naja Qamruddin, Samir Qamaruddin, Noorunnisa Shan, Ailiya Asghari, Waseem and Anees Shah, Looloo Baqar, Masooma Athar, Firdous Habeeb, M. Zaheeruddin, Musaifa Abbas, Luluwa and Faisal Ali Khan, Muneeb M. Khan, Amer M. Khan, Etesham Ahmed..

Dear Junior Readers,

Kuwait has been really hot the past few days, do you know why it is so hot during summer?

Oddly enough the earth is about 3,000,000 miles nearer to the sun during winter than it is in summer. Yet it is much warmer in summer.

The reasons are not caused by different distances from the sun, but by the slant of the earth's axis as it moves around the sun. Scientists have learned that the equator of the earth is tilted 23 1/2 degrees to the path of the earth around the sun.

The difference in weather with the seasons occurs because the sun's rays are more slanting in winter and less slanting in

summer. Slanting rays produce less heat for two reasons. One is that they scatter their heat over a larger area of the earth's surface. The other is that they lose more of their heat in passing through the atmosphere.

Other factors, primarily water, land, and altitude, help regulate the climate. Water has a stabilizing effect and helps prevent

great changes in temperature. Land does not store up heat (the way the ocean does), so big temperature changes can take place over large land areas. Air grows less dense with altitude and cannot absorb as much heat as at sea level. So the higher the altitude, the lower the temperature.

Mandal.

Zara S., Nausheen Sadeq, Mohammad Jaun Rizvi, Husna Shahnoor, Mohammad Ali Hussain, Mahreen Sadeq, Aisha Shahwar, Shivehaz Khan, Naja Qamruddin, Samir Qamaruddin, Noorunnisa Shan, Ailiya Asghari, Waseem and Anees Shah, Looloo Baqar, Masooma Athar, Firdous Habeeb, M. Zaheeruddin, Musaifa Abbas, Luluwa and Faisal Ali Khan, Muneeb M. Khan, Amer M. Khan, Etesham Ahmed..

Firsts and lasts

The last time cutting down a tree without permission in Britain was an offence punishable by hanging was in 1819.

Lady Astor, Britain's first woman MP, was born in America.

The final words of the great scientist Albert Einstein are not known — the nurse who was attending him did not understand German and he spoke them in that language.

Albert Einstein, the brilliant atomic scientist, failed his university entrance exams at the first attempt.

The right to vote was first given to women in New Zealand. It was given in September, 1893 and the USA followed 20 years later.

The first British commercial television went on the air on 22nd September, 1955 and the first product advertised was Gibbs' SR toothpaste.

Wordsearch

BUTTER

Alice Wells joined the Los Angeles police force in September, 1910 and in doing so became the world's first policewoman.

The planet Uranus was first named 'Georgium Sidium' after King George III of England.

BALL	KNIFE
BEAN	MILK
BELL	NUT
CHURN	PATE
COLORED	PLATE
CUP	SAUCE
DISH	SCOTCH
DOCK	WORT
FAT	
FINGERED	
FISH	
FLY	
	K K O O S S O N K H O O K
	C C C A C A U U L L S N S
	M M O O T T U T T I I I T
	L L T T D D C C F F M M F
	C C A A C C A A E E E I D
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	D D L L D D L L G G S G L
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	B T O O T O T T L N A U B
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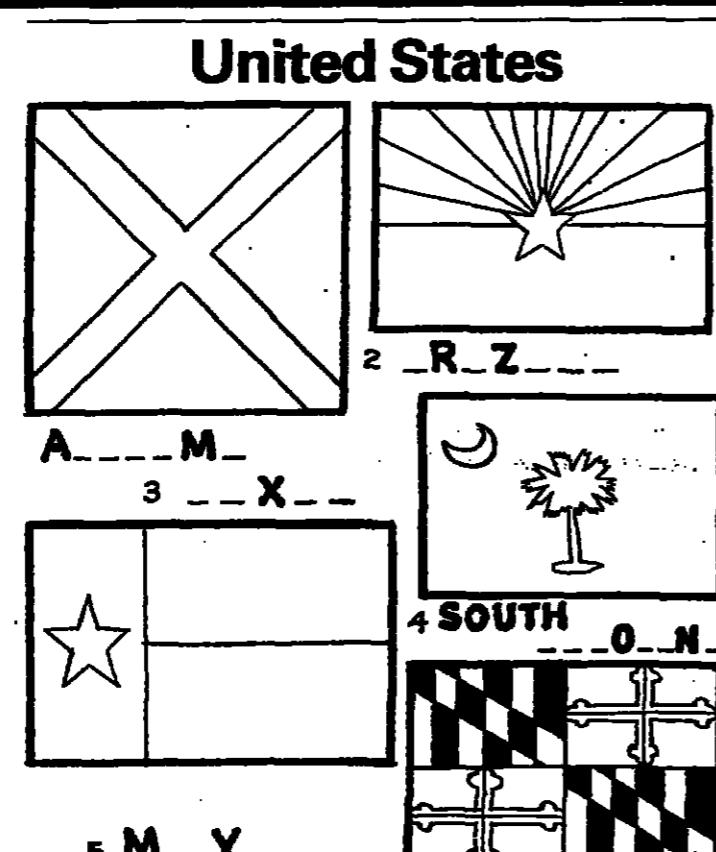
The cat

What interests that little face,
Upturned towards the sky.
Perhaps he'd like to be a bird,
And spread his wings and fly.
If he could fly up in that tree,
He'd really fancy that,
He could get a meal, for free
Because he is a cat
Dorothy Howell
U.K.

Did you know?

The red flag with the hammer and sickle symbols of the USSR was first used in 1917.

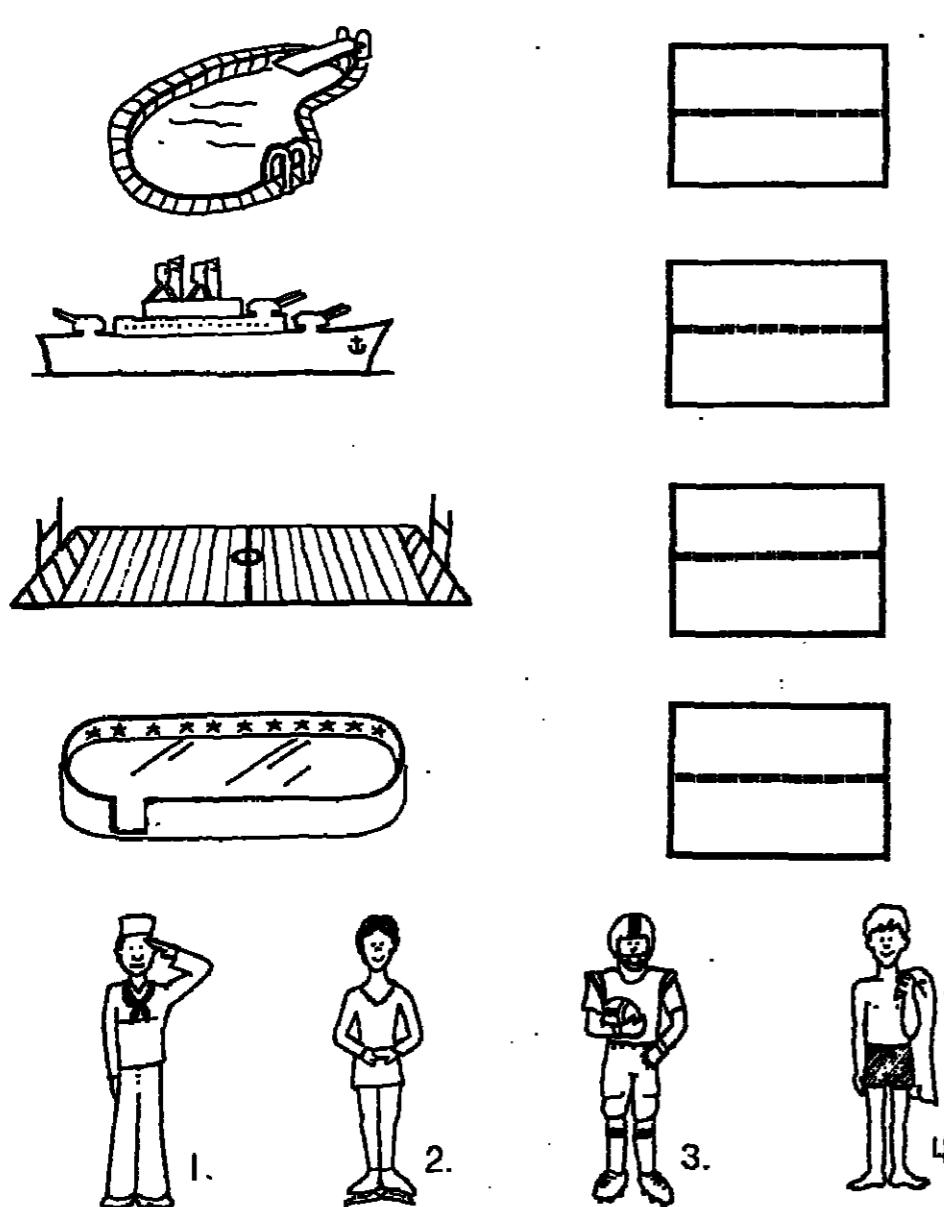
Scientists think that all the land on earth was first joined into one large mass called Pangaea. The continents we know today were created when Pangaea broke up.



Here are flags from some of the states of America. Complete the words below them to find out which states they belong to.

Where are they going?

Look at each picture on the left. Write the number of the picture at the bottom next to where the people are going.



Just for laughs!

The welfare worker was paying his first visit to a problem family in his area, and the door was opened by a small girl.

'What ya want?' she asked suspiciously.

'Is your mother in?' asked the welfare officer.

'Nah,' answered the moppet, 'she's in a one-mart nutters, ain't she?'

'Oh ... well, is your father in?'

'Nah. 'E's in the nick, ain't 'e?'

'Oh dear ... what about your brother?'

'E's in Borstal.'

'Good gracious. Is there a big sister looking after you, then?'

'She was until last week but now she's at Oxford University.'

'My Dad,' said the vain girl loftily, 'says that when I grow up I'll be a raving beauty.'

'Why?' asked her catty friend, 'is he going to put you in a lunatic asylum?'

'Certainly not! He says I'm sure to have lots of men at my feet.'

'Very likely chiropodists! —



MARCO

THE MAGICIAN
403708, GOA, INDIA.

THE MAGICIAN TIES A SIMPLE KNOT TO A LADIES SCARF AND HOLDS IT BY ONE END. THE LOWER END OF THE SCARF SLOWLY BEGINS TO RISE UPWARD IN THE MOST UNNATURAL WAY AND IT GOES BACK THROUGH THE KNOT AND RELEASES THE SCARF.



SECRET: THERE IS A NYLON OR SILK THREAD TIED TO ONE END OF THE SCARF FIG "A". WITH THE HELP OF THIS END HE TIES A KNOT.

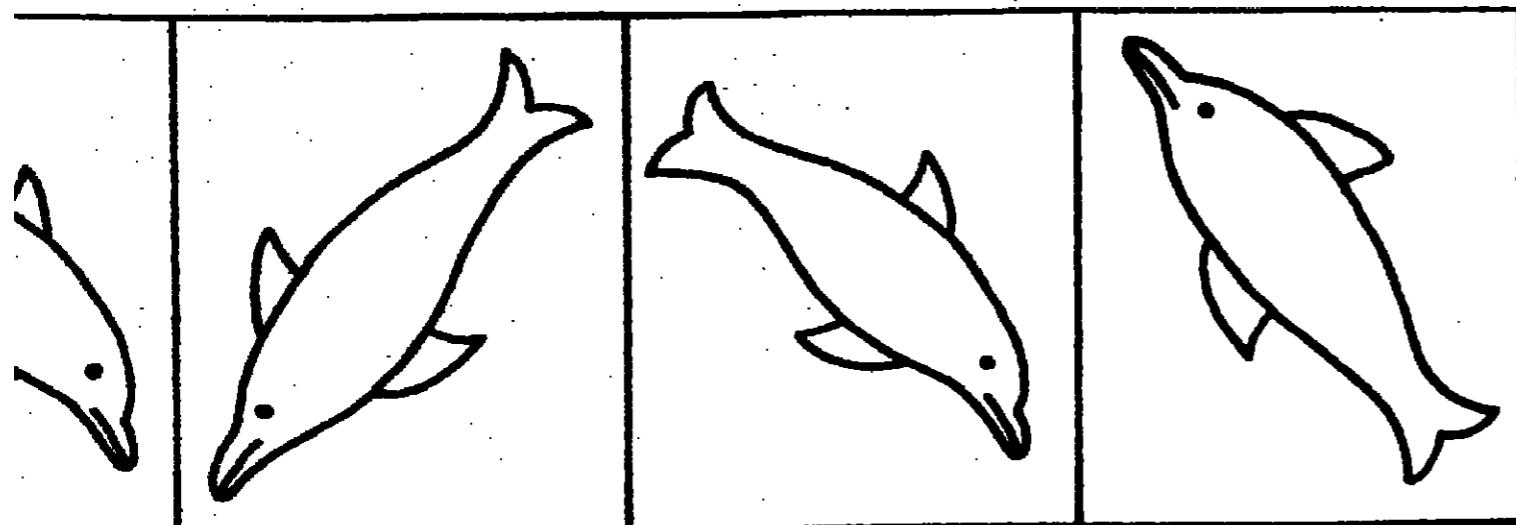
NOTE: HOW THE THREAD PASSES THROUGH THE KNOT AS SHOWN IN FIG "B". NOW PLACE ONE OF YOUR FOOT OVER THE OTHER END OF THE THREAD FIG "C".

YOU WILL OBSERVE THAT LOWER END OF THE KNOTTED SCARF RISES AND WILL AUTOMATICALLY RELEASE THE KNOT.

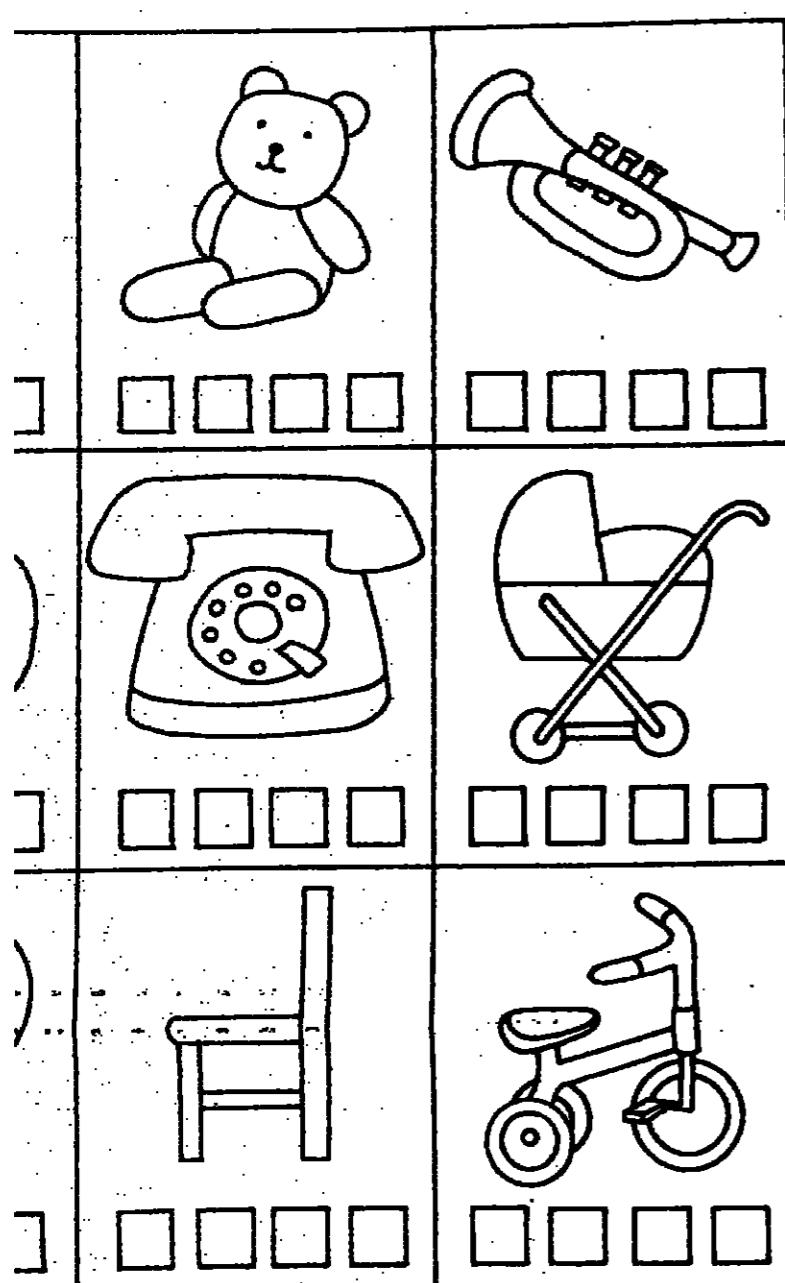
NOTE: THE THREAD MUST BE SUCH THAT IT IS NOT VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.

s

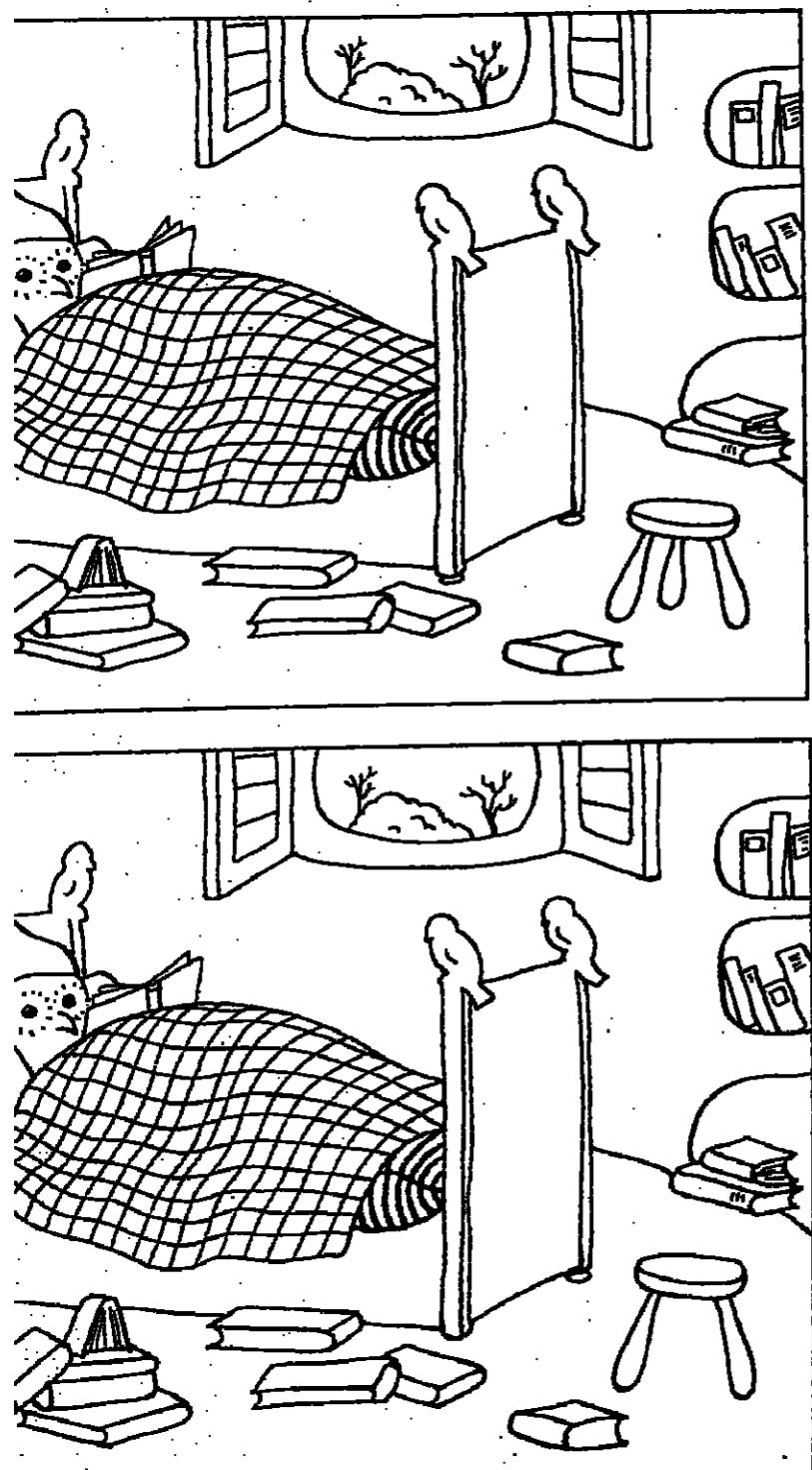
ne Colour in the dolphins which are exactly the same

**Syllables**

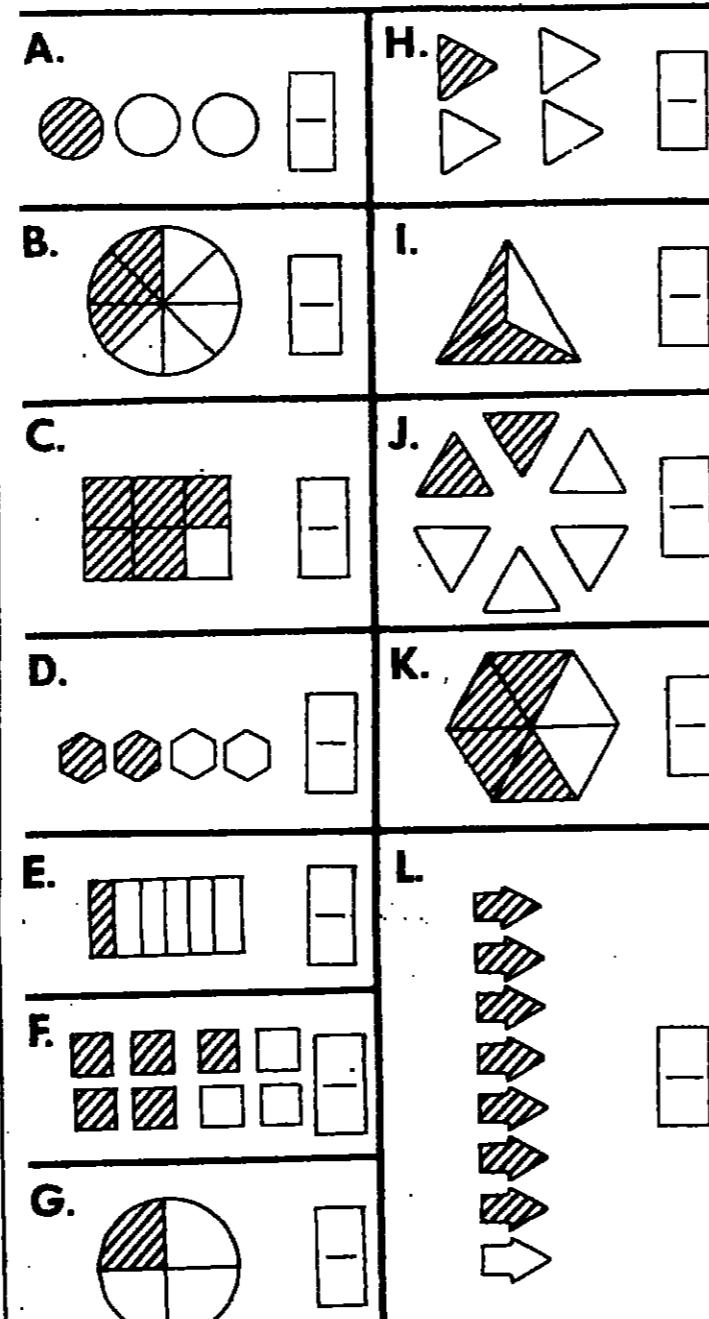
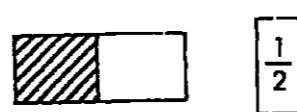
of each item. Colour in as many boxes as there are words.

**Find the difference**

Find six differences in the bottom picture.

**Write the fraction beside each drawing.**

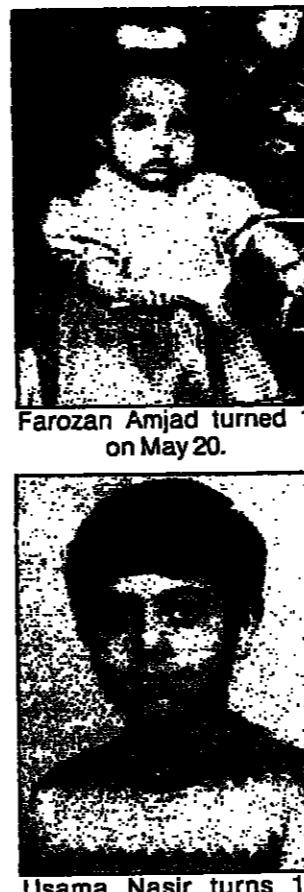
Example:



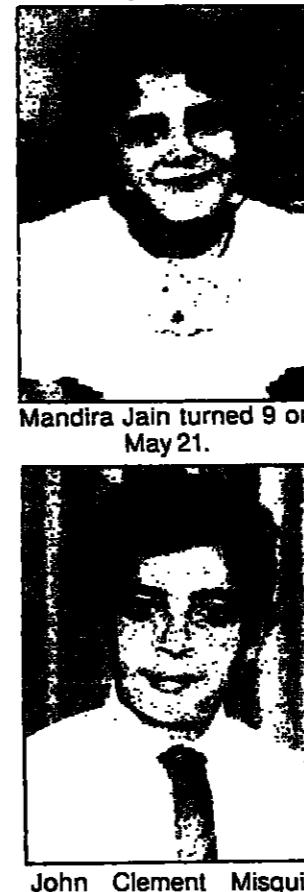
Roger, Lost and Found are hiding from Barney. Can you see them?

**Happy birthday**

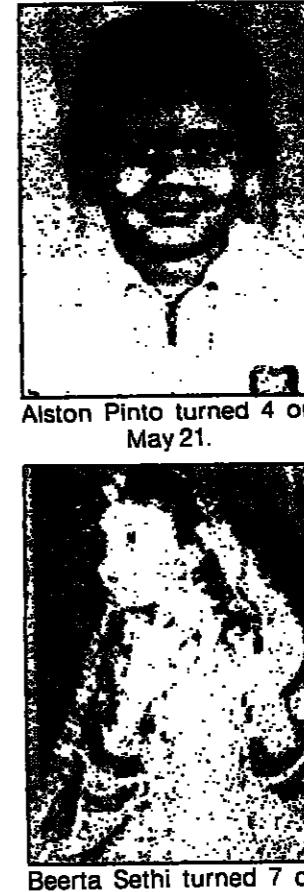
Hibna Mirza celebrated her 10th birthday, in Arby's, with her friends recently.



Farozan Amjad turned 1 on May 20.



Mandira Jain turned 9 on May 21.



Alston Pinto turned 4 on May 21.



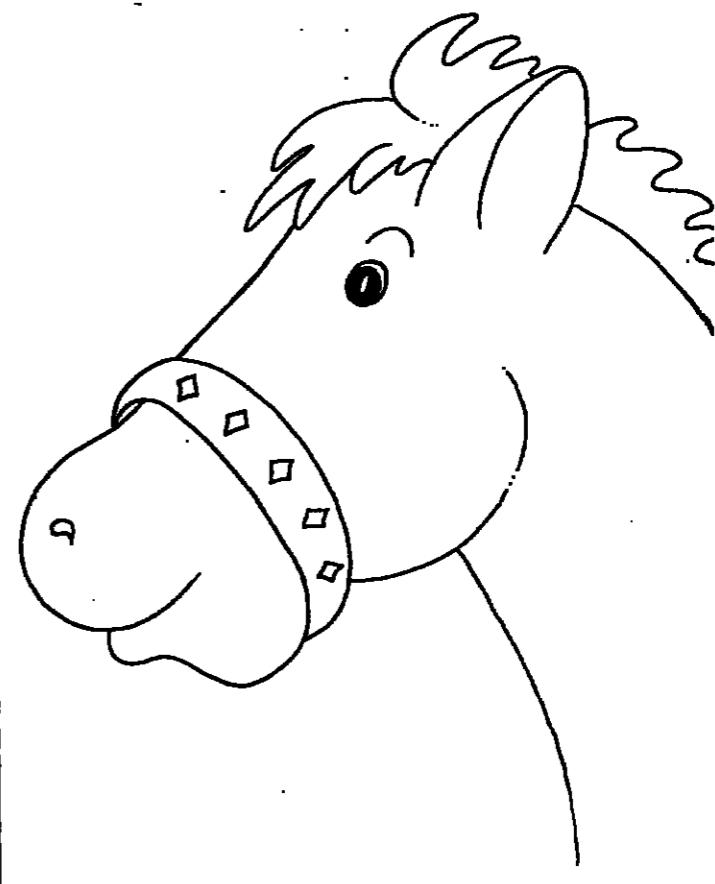
Usama Nasir turns today May 22.



John Clement Misquith turns 15 on May 23.



Beerta Sethi turned 7 on May 18.

Colouring time**A lie**

One lie is like a black dot.
Each time you tell another,
To cover up the other,
The dot becomes bigger than before.
But where is this black dot?
Is it deep inside you?
Is it in your soul?
By Tracey Lee Pacheco
12 years
N.E.S

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name:
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To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

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REQUIRED

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Personal interviews, call Tel. 2635369 Hawalli, Al Muthanna Bldg., 2nd floor, apartment 5.

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Call Tel. 4830927, 4830928

REQUIRED

Full/part-time, an experienced technician for servicing - radios, tape-recorders, mixers, cameras, emergency lantern etc.
Call - 2461688, 2461212

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For Rent

SURRA, Block 5, Villa. Rent KD750 (fixed). Tele. 2426942, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. (AT3-52730-3)

JABRIYA on the main road CAC new deluxe furnished 2 storey villa with basement. Suitable for European embassy or executive. Rent KD1,500 (fixed). Tele. 2453883 or 5339174. (AT2-52711-3)

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Available

SALWA, Single room with AC and tele. facilities. Tele. Mr. Faz, 5626749. (AT2-52709-3)

SALMIYA, Amman Street on the main road. Furnished accommodation for 4 Muslim bachelors. Rent KD35 each. Tele. 5616941 after 3 p.m. (AT2-52716-2)

RUMAITHIYA, near the Passport Office. A fully furnished room available with water/electricity, kitchen and tele. facilities for a single person (Indian). Tele. 5613885 after 2 p.m. (AT4-52608-3)

KUWAIT City, Murgab, near Masjid Abdulla Mubarak and Burhani Markaz, sharing accommodation for Dawoodi Bohra couple only. Tele. 241641. (AT4-52752-3)

ONE room for two bachelors to share with a Goan couple in Fahd Al Salem Street near Kentucky Chicken Restaurant. Tele. 2413439 between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm. (AT4-52754-2)

SHARING accommodation for a working lady in Sharq near Kuwait Fisheries from June, 1990. Preferably Indian. Tele. 2421834 after 5 p.m. (AT4-52753-3)

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street. Building No. 131. Flat No. 12 (ground floor). One room for a couple or 2 working ladies to share with a family (three members). Rent KD55. Tele. Mr. Kumar. 5625811, 5625769, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (AT2-52702-3)

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Agricultural workers for morning duty only.

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Mishrif, for 2 families GROUND FLOOR — 3

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Boats

YACHT. Westerley GK24, 24 ft in length, with sails, instruments, and outboard engine, in excellent condition. Tele. 5615294, after 7 p.m. (AT2-52693-3)

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MOTORBIKE for sale, Kawasaki 750Z-LTD. Only 14,000 kms, very good condition. Price KD500. Tele. Mr. Christian. 2455550 ext. 943-967, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (AT4-52728-3)

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M/S. Valsa Enterprises offer one acre developed plots in "Eden Garden" project adjacent to "Peacock" Yacht Club. Scenic spot with lake view — makes it ideal for dream home cum summer-resort. For details contact:

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first-class female
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131, 81 model, in good condition for immediate sale. Owner leaving Kuwait, full warranty and comprehensive insurance.

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Pistons beat Bulls in conference finals opener

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, May 21. (AP): Joe Dumars scored 18 third-quarter points and Detroit's tenacious defense held Michael Jordan to eight second-half points as the defending National Basketball Association champion Pistons beat the Bulls 86-77 yesterday in the first game of the Eastern Conference finals.

The best-of 7 series continues tomorrow night at the palace, then shifts to Chicago stadium for afternoon games Saturday and Monday.

Dumars, the Most Valuable Player in last year's championship series when the Pistons swept the Los Angeles Lakers for

their first League title, finished with 27 points.

Jordan, who had averaged 40.3 points in the Bulls' first nine playoff games, scored a game-high 34 points ... but 26 game in the first half, when Chicago led 43-39.

The Pistons, meeting Chicago for the

second straight year in the conference finals, are 23-6 against the Bulls over the past three years, including the playoffs. Last year, they eliminated Chicago in six games.

Over the past two seasons, Detroit has held playoff opponents to less than 100 points in 23 of their last 26 games.

Barrios wins for 4th time

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21. (AP): Mexico native Arturo Barrios broke the record to win the Bay to Breakers race for the fourth year in a row yesterday, leading a pack of 70,000 wet racers, a few of whom ran in the nude despite a chilly drizzle.

Barrios' finished in 34:31.2, breaking the record set in 1986 by Utah runner Ed Eystone. John Doherty, a native of Ireland who lives in Rhode Island, followed with 34:38.7.

British-born Jill Hunter was the top woman finisher, with a time of 39:19.

Both winners live in Boulder, Colorado.

Despite the record-breaking win, Barrios said rain made the running difficult.

• Soviet runner Irena Selyarenko was the first woman to cross the finish line in yesterday's 13th annual Revo-Cleveland marathon, but race officials disqualified her for receiving too much assistance from a teammate during the race.

Because of the disqualification, another Soviet runner, Valentina Lounigova was awarded first place, in a time of two hours, 44 minutes and 23 seconds. She was about three minutes behind Selyarenko.

In the men's marathon, Aleman Lopez of Mexico surged with three miles (4.8-kilometres) left to beat Mokhameth Nasipov of the Soviet Union and win his first major marathon in 2:15:12.

Nasipov, who could not respond to Lopez's final surge, finished in 2:15:40.

Ker-ya's Yohes Ondicki made short work of a world class field in the men's 10-kilometre run, winning in 28:32.

Barnes sets world record

Kingdom edges Campbell



Kingdom: just managed to beat Campbell

American riders dominate

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy, May 21. (AP): Wayne Rainey led the US domination of the Italian Grand Prix motorcycle race yesterday, winning the 500-cc division while John Kocinski took the 250-cc class.

Rainey, 29, from Los Angeles, won aboard his Japanese-made Yamaha, finishing 2.1 seconds ahead of Kevin Schwantz, also of the United States.

Yesterday's victory in this Adriatic Sea resort, his third championship title this year out of four races, gave Rainey 77 points overall and a comfortable 27-point lead over former world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia.

• Gardner, who competed despite a cracked rib, finished fourth yesterday on a Honda.

Schwantz, a 25-year-old from Paige, Texas, moved into third place in the overall standings with 47 points.

Both Rainey and Schwantz, who had led a boycott of the Italian Grand Prix last year to protest dangerous conditions at the Misano track, praised the Italian organizers, who stopped the 500-cc race after 24 laps following a sudden rain shower.

"I was prepared to stop myself if race officials did not stop us," said Rainey, who led Schwantz by 2.5

seconds when the race was suspended.

After changing tires, the riders completed the remaining 36 laps. Schwantz, riding a Suzuki, finished ahead of Rainey, but Rainey ended with a better aggregate time of 46 minutes, 21.15 seconds.

"It's another step forward toward the title," said Rainey.

Eddie Lawson, current and four-time world champion from the United States, did not compete in Misano and may also miss the next championship round in West Germany. Lawson, a Yamaha team member, fractured his foot in the season opener at Suzuki, Japan, in March.

Kocinski rode his Yamaha to an unchallenged

victory in the 250-cc after his toughest rival, Italy's Luca Cadalora, was stopped by an engine problem on the fourth lap.

Kocinski, 22, who won his third consecutive championship event, took over first place in the overall standings with 62 points, replacing Cadalora.

"Luca still can fight back, but I am better positioned after today's victory," said Kocinski, who rides full time for the team of his mentor Kenny Roberts.

Bruins defeat Oilers

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 21. (Reuter): The Boston Bruins came up with two first period goals and held on to beat the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 yesterday to give Boston their first victory of the 1990 Stanley Cup finals.

The Bruins, who dropped the first two games at home, trail the Oilers two games to one.

John Byce, making his final series debut, gave Boston a jump start when he batted home the rebound of a 30-foot backhander by Cam Neely just 10 seconds into the first period.

Boston is bidding to become only the fourth team in the history of the Stanley Cup finals to come back from a 2-0 deficit.

Edmonton, held to 15 shots on goal in the first two periods, got on track in the third when they fired 14 shots at former team-mate Andy Moog in the Boston goal.

Yachtsman rescued

LONDON, May 21. (Reuter): A round-the-world yachtsman was rescued by helicopter more than 500 miles off Britain's southwest coast yesterday after showing signs of rejecting a kidney transplant, organisers said.

Andrew Dibbsall, a competitor in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race, was suffering from back injuries as well as apparent kidney problems following a transplant four years ago.

He was winched aboard a Royal Air Force Sea King helicopter which was to take him to a hospital in Cork, southern Ireland after stopping to refuel on a naval auxiliary ship in the Atlantic.

Gene Sauer, who finished five strokes back of Crenshaw, shot the low round of the day as he tied the course record with an 8-under-par 63.

Strange, who was tied with Crenshaw when the round started, birdied the first hole. After consecutive bogeys on two and three, however, the US Open champion never managed to get his game back under control.

Crenshaw had a marvellous day with his putter as he recorded five birdies over the first nine holes. Two of his birdie puts were more than 30 feet.

Crenshaw hits last round 66 for victory

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 21. (Reuter): Ben Crenshaw said he "played like a new man," this week after he won the \$1 million Colonial Golf Tournament by three strokes yesterday.

Crenshaw, winless since the spring of 1988, was in complete control on the Colonial Country Club course for the tournament's final 18 holes. He took charge with a blazing 5-under-par 30 on the outgoing nine and never looked back.

Crenshaw, who won here in 1977, shot a 66 for the day and finished at 8-under-par 272 to total \$180,000.

John Mahaffey, Corey Pavin and Zimbabwe's Nick Price tied for second place at 5-under-par 273, while Curtis Strange and Mike Hubert, who fired a final round 63, finished four strokes back.

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Trevino wins first senior tournament

HOUSTON, May 21. (AP): Lee Trevino shot a 3-under-par 69 yesterday for a tournament-record 13-under-par 203 total and six-stroke victory in the Doug Sanders Kingwood Celebrity Classic.

The victory was Trevino's fourth in eight tournaments this year, his first on the PGA Senior Tour.

Trevino was the wire-to-wire leader and also set the 36-hole tournament record with 134 over the 6,564-yard, par-72 Deerwood County Club.

Trevino birdied the final three holes to shake off runner-up Gary Player, whose tournament-best 7-under 65 in the final round had pulled him within three strokes of the lead.

Player, who started the final round 10 strokes behind Trevino, closed to within three under making a birdie on No. 16.

Player, playing two groups ahead of Trevino, went to seven under with birdies on 14, 15 and 16 while Trevino bogeyed 15 to go 10 under.

Left-hander Bob Charles of New Zealand, who came into the final round in second four strokes behind Trevino, finished third at six under with the final-round 72.



Mario Silva of Portugal raises his arms in victory after winning the men's 1,500 metres at the Sao Paulo meet. (Reuter wirephoto)

Americans dominate GP meet

SAO PAULO, Brazil, May 21. (Reuter): Americans dominated the opening Grand Prix meeting of the outdoor athletics season yesterday with Danny Harris leading the way with a blazing victory in the 400-metres hurdles.

Harris turned in the fastest 400-metre hurdles in the world this year with his 48.13 second victory at Sao Paulo's Ibirapuera Stadium.

Harris was more than a full second faster than compatriot Kevin Young who was second in 49.23, well ahead of Senegal's Olympic silver medallist Amadou Dia Ba, who finished seventh in 50.70.

Cuban athletes, who arrived only an hour before the meeting after flying all night, managed two victories. Roberto Hernandez won the 400 metres in 45.44 seconds and Isel Lopes took the women's javelin with a 65.48-metre throw.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball results

NEW YORK, May 21. (Reuter): Results of the Major League baseball games played yesterday:

American League		
Mirn Twins	5	Boston
Baltimore	4	Texas
Seattle	8	Cleveland
Toronto	5	California
Detroit	3	Chicago
Milwaukee	5	Oakland
Kansas City	4	Yankees
National League		
St Louis	6	Cincinnati
Chicago	5	Houston
Montreal	6	San Francisco
Los Angeles	6	Philadelphia
San Diego	3	N Y Mets
Atlanta	13	Pittsburgh

World tennis

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 21. (Reuter): Results of Group One matches at the World Team Cup round-robin tennis tournament today (each match is played over the best of three rubbers): West Germany v Soviet Union (West German names first); Carl Uwe Steeb beat Alexander Volkov 7-5, 7-5; Boris Becker beat Andrei Cherkasov 6-4, 6-3; West Germany took a 2-0 winning lead.

Spain v US (Spanish names first): Jordi Arrese beat Brad Gilbert 7-5, 7-5; Spain lead 1-0.

Lopez triumphs

RENO, Nevada, May 21. (AP): Tony Lopez, spurred on by a partisan crowd, regained the International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title yesterday with the closest of split decisions over Juan "John John" Molina.

Biggest defection

WELLINGTON, May 21. (Reuter): All Black John Gallagher said today that he had signed for British Rugby League side Leeds in probably the biggest defection in the history of New Zealand Rugby Union.

Wales win

CARDIFF, Wales, May 21. (AP): Striker Dean Saunders scored in the 10th minute yesterday, giving Wales a 1-0 victory over punchless Costa Rica for its first victory in 11 contests.

Top seeds

PARIS, May 21. (AP): Stefan Edberg and Wimbledon champion Boris Becker will be the top two seeds at the French Open tennis tournament next week, according to ATP Tour rankings released today.

Brazilian team

ROME, May 21. (Reuter): Brazil's World Cup soccer team arrived in Rome yesterday and their coach said they were in high spirits and had the confidence needed to win.

Cup tuneup

NEW DELHI, May 21. (AP): Peter Vermes scored just 15 seconds into the second half to give the United States a 1-0 victory over Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia yesterday in the Americans' final domestic tuneup for the World Cup.

Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS, May 21. (AP): Seventy-five minutes of tension yesterday at the end of rain-shortened final day of qualifications for the Indianapolis 500 put John Paul Jr and Rocky Moran into the 33-car lineup and kept out Johnny Rutherford and rookie Jeff Andretti.

Kiwi batsmen hammer Middlesex

Rutherford hits half ton

LONDON, May 21. (Reuter): New Zealand showed the depth of their batting as Ken Rutherford and Mark Priest hit unbeaten half-centuries in a timely, unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 14 against Middlesex at Lord's yesterday.

Rutherford hit 69 not out and left-arm spinner Priest made 51 not out to lift New Zealand from 170 for five to 284 for five, at which point John Wright declared 48 behind on first innings.

Wright was probably seeking a challenging last-day declaration from Middlesex, who ended the second day of the three-day cricket match on 64 for one — 112 ahead.

The innings by Rutherford and Priest, backed by 54 from opener Wright, brought the number of first-class scores beyond 50 on the tour to 12, but only Trevor Franklin has gone on to make a century.

Wright batted stylishly for 121 minutes before slapping pace bowler Simon Hughes to debutant Paul Weekes in the gully, while Martin Crowe (13)



Ken Rutherford

failed and Andrew Jones (44) went lbw to Hughes when shaping for a big innings.

Mark Greatbatch had also established himself when, on 34, he tried to leave a delivery from Hughes, only to see it divert off the bat and on to his stumps.

Rutherford impressively stroked 11 fours in 125 minutes off 121 balls and his stand with Priest, who faced 88 balls, took 108 minutes.

Danny Morrison, the touring side's quickest bowler, struck with his first ball when Middlesex batted again, Richard Hadlee holding a superb gully catch off Mike Roseberry.

But Morrison, who conceded 100 runs of 22 overs in the first innings, then produced a sequence of half-volleys to Mark Ramprakash, who struck him for four successive fours.

Scoreboard

MIDDLESEX first innings 332 for six declared (D. Haynes 181, P. Downton 57 not out; M. Smedden 1ve for 63).

NEW ZEALAND first innings (over night 13 for no wicket):

J. Crowe c Downton b Cowans 14

J. Wright c Weeks b Hughes 54

A. Jones lbw b Hughes 41

M. Crowe c Downton b

Tufnell 13

M. Greatbatch b Hughes 34

K. Rutherford not out 69

M. Priest not out 51

Extras (b-7 lb-1 nb-1) 9

Total (five wickets declared) 284

Fall of wickets: 1-44 2-77 3-103 4-148 5-170

Did not bat R. Hadlee, I. Smith, M. Smedden, D. Morrison

Bowling: Cowans 21-4-56-1, Hughes 23-2-6-87-3, Tufnell 20-5-64-1, Thurlow 16-7-41-0, Weeks 13-6-28-0

MIDDLESEX second innings

D. Haynes not out 25

M. Roseberry c Hadlee b Morrison 0

M. Ramprakash not out 36

Extras (lb-1 nb-2) 3

Total (one wicket) 84

Fall of wicket 1-4

Bowling (to date) Hadlee 6-2-10-0, Morrison 8-0-38-1, Priest 3-1-10-0, Jones 1-0-5-0

Steinlager set to win

LONDON, May 21. (Reuter): Steinlager Two, a red-hulled ketch from New Zealand, looks set to sweep to victory in the southern English port of Southampton tomorrow morning after one of the world's most arduous yacht races.

Short of being dismissed, the trophy's theirs, said a spokeswoman for the 33,000-mile Whitbread round the world yacht race, whose sixth and final leg ends in Southampton.

This morning Steinlager Two, captained by Peter Blake, was about 35 hours ahead overall of another New Zealand ketch, Fisher & Paykel, with 210 miles of the last leg to go.

The two ketches, with their extra speed advantage, have dominated the nine-month race with organisers praising their immaculate preparation and skilful crewing.

This plate is likely to be snatched by Switzerland's Pierre Fehlmann and his sloop Merit which today was managing to fend off British challenger Lawrie Smith in Rothmans.

As the sun rises Steinlager Two will sail up the English Channel and into Southampton water and a champagne reception.

The leading yachts just need a strong southeasterly wind to send them racing past the finish line, where an enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers is expected.

Seles gives Graf taste of her own medicine

WEST BERLIN, May 21. (AP): Monica Seles has a license to slay giants in tennis, but even after beating World No. 1 Steffi Graf this weekend said she doesn't have one to drive a car.

The 16-year-old Yugoslav overpowered West German tennis ace Graf in the German Open tennis tournament in West Berlin yesterday, 6-4, 6-3 and picked up a \$100,000 check for her trouble.

"Maybe after the French Open I'll buy a car. I'm the only one of the top players who doesn't have a car," she said.

"My taste is a little exotic — I'd like a Lamborghini, but I'll settle for a red BMW. I still have to get my driver's license," Seles said with one of her typical giggles.

Does she feel like No 1 after beating Graf?

"Oh no, this is just one match. I'm just happy that I'm playing well," she said.

And playing well she is. Seles has now wiped out two of the giants in women's tennis in succession.

She just came off an overwhelming 6-1, 6-1 win over Martina Navratilova in Rome before arriving in Berlin, and now has a 24-match streak going.

Seles grabbed yesterday's win in a surprising 63 minutes, giving



Graf holds her head after losing to Seles. (Reuter wirephoto)

Graf's usually dangerous forehand deserted her and Seles was slashing two-handed shots into the West German around the court.

"I was so far away from play like that I can't expect to win," Graf said after the match.

"At the moment it feels like setback, but I have to think, didn't lose for almost a year. That can't be too bad," she added.

AC Milan set to seal hat-trick

VIENNA, May 21. (Reuter): Defender Mark Wright, who missed the last World Cup finals because of a broken leg, won his battle for selection for Italy today when England manager Bobby Robson named his 22-man squad.

The inclusion of Wright had been the biggest uncertainty as Robson prepared to announce his squad day before England's penultimate warm-up match, against fellow World Cup qualifiers Uruguay.

As expected, David Seaman, who joined Arsenal last week for £1.3 million (\$2.2 million) was preferred to Chelsea's Dave Beasant as third choice goalkeeper behind Peter Shilton and Chris Woods.

Goalkeepers: Peter Shilton (Derby), Chris Woods (Glasgow Rangers), David Seaman (Arsenal)

Defenders: Gary Stevens (Glasgow Rangers), Paul Parker (Queen's Park Rangers), Des Walker (Nottingham Forest), Terry Butcher (Glasgow Rangers), Mark Wright (Derby), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Tony Dorigo (Chelsea)

Middlefielders: Chris Waddle (Marseille), Trevor Steven (Glasgow Rangers), Steve Hodge (Nottingham Forest), Neil Webb (Manchester United), Bryan Robson (Manchester United), Paul Gascoigne (Tottenham), Steve McMahon (Liverpool).

Forwards: John Barnes (Liverpool), Peter Beardsley (Liverpool), Gary Lineker (Tottenham), Steve Bull (Wolverhampton), David Platt (Aston Villa).

England will be hoping to extend their long unbeaten run and avoid serious injuries tomorrow when they meet fellow qualifiers Uruguay.

The South Americans, widely recognised as one of the most skillful and talented soccer nations, are also notorious for their often brutal play and will certainly provide a robust threat to England's stretch of 17 matches without defeat.

KTV will show this match live today at 10.00 pm on channels 6 and 45.

Last Friday, during a 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland in Belfast, Uruguay were involved in a match riddled with niggling fouls and Robson made it clear he expects his players to receive maximum protection from the referee as they seek to give a rousing farewell performance.

"We've never had any trouble with Uruguay, but one man can control it if we do," he said, "if the referee sends the guy off at the first sign of brutality, that's all he needs to do."

Robson hopes to see his team win handsomely to take their unbeaten run to within one match of England's record of 19 matches without defeat.

Watch this match live tomorrow at 9.15 pm on channels 6 and 45.

defeat in Verona, in which Rijkard, Van Basten, and defender Alessandro Costacurta were sent off, cost them an Italian League title which had seemed secure when they led 1-0 at halftime.

The after-effects of that shock wave cost them the Italian Cup three days later when they surprisingly lost at home to Juventus in the final.

The key to their ability to return to action last month after being sidelined for almost a year by a knee injury after the 1983 European Cup final when he scored twice in the 4-0 victory.

Milan trainer Arrigo Sacchi is being cagey about whether he will play Gullit, who slightly injured a thigh muscle last week.

"I'll make my decision about Ruidi only on Wednesday morning after the final training session in Vienna. This is simple nations," Ruidi has hardly played for year," he said.

Falcon replied with 179 runs for 3 wickets in just 18 overs but had a better run rate average.

Falcon started very badly, losing their first wicket with just one run on the board. Then veteran Ghulam Haider joined Zahid Butt at number 3 and scored a partnership of 178 runs. Zahid Butt was finally bowled on the last delivery of the match. He scored 96 runs, including 6 sixes and 5 fours.

Ghulam Haider remained not out on 82. Sharma claimed two wickets for 26 runs for Rangers.

On Friday June 11 Lanka

lions defeated YMCA in their opening fixture of the GCL Summer League. Put to bat first YMCA scored 128 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 21 overs. Bittu Singh scored 29 and Javed Kaloo

remained unbeaten with a well played 54 runs. For the Lanka Lions Donald took 2 wickets and Dhammika and Gamini took one each.

When the time ran out Lanka Lions had scored 100 runs in 16 overs and were awarded the winners due to a faster run rate. Meraj scored 34 and Donald remained unbeaten with 19 runs. Anu bowled well for YMCA by taking 3 wickets for 23 runs.

Falcon Cricket Club beat Rangers in a Summer League Cricket match Friday morning at the EPI Ground.

Rangers won the toss and batted first. They scored 186 runs for 5 wickets in 23 overs. Peely hit 38 runs, Navid 35 and Sejal 33. Falcon replied with 179 runs for 3 wickets in just 18 overs but had a better run rate average.

Falcon started very badly, losing their first wicket with just one run on the board. Then veteran Ghulam Haider joined Zahid Butt at number 3 and scored a partnership of 178 runs. Zahid Butt was finally bowled on the last delivery of the match. He scored 96 runs, including 6 sixes and 5 fours.

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On Friday June 11 Lanka

lions defeated YMCA in their opening fixture of the GCL Summer League. Put to bat first YMCA scored 128 runs for the loss